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ERNEST C. THOMAS

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The Library Chronicle.

THE FREE LIBRARIES OF BIRMINGHAM AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.[1]

By R. K. Dent, Librarian of the Aston Free Library.

It will be difficult in the limited space of this Paper to more than indicate, in the briefest manner possible, the various libraries established under the Act in this neighbourhood. I feel, however, that there is so much to interest and encourage us in the history of the marvellously complete and successful Free Libraries of the town in which we are met for the tenth annual session of this Association, that, in however cursory a manner, I must endeavour to glance at that history.

The Free Libraries Act of 1850 had not been on the Statute Book much more than twelve months before an attempt was made to apply its provisions to Birmingham. At a meeting of the Town Council on the 19th of March, 1852, it was resolved that the Mayor should be requested to take the necessary steps to determine whether or no the Public Libraries Act should be adopted for Birmingham. A severe contest ensued, and among the most earnest advocates for the establishment of a free library were the late George Dawson, Mr. Sam Timmins, Mr. William Harris, and other local men of light and leading, several of whom are happily still keenly interested in the Free Library movement, as is testified by their long connection with this Association.

But notwithstanding their zealous endeavours, the people were not to be aroused from their apathy about the matter as yet; and less than 900 persons were found willing to take the trouble to record their votes, of which 363 were against the motion, which was consequently lost—there being less than a two-thirds majority in its favour. It is curious to notice that the cry raised at that time against the movement in Birmingham was that of "Another State Endowment;" and voluntaryism *plus* apathy gained the day.

Something like progress was made towards the establishment of a Free Library in 1855, when about 200 volumes of the Patent Office publications were presented to the town, on condition that they should be deposited in a library to which the inhabitants could have free access. They were placed in the then newly established

[1] Read at the Birmingham Meeting, September, 1887.

Midland Institute, with the understanding that they should be transferred to the Fre Library, should we ever happen to have one.

With this nest-egg for the hoped-for library, the people remained content unt 1859, when the subject was once more brought to the front at the Council Meeting August of that year, whereat a Committee was appointed to consider and report upo the subject. An exhaustive report was drawn up by this Committee, embodying th experience of Manchester, Liverpool, Salford, Birkenhead, and other towns, which ha already adopted the Act. I do not know whether this report is in the Referenc Library, but it ought to have the place of honour in that collection, for like the goo report brought by the spies concerning the Land of Canaan, it served to whet th appetite of the people, and the Free Libraries Act was at length adopted on the 21 of February, 1860. The first Free Library and Newsroom, being the northern branc establishment in Constitution Hill, was opened to the public on the 3rd of April, 186 by the late Mr. Arthur Ryland, the then mayor of the borough. Mr. Charles Adderle (now Lord Norton), founded a second branch library on the confines of the borough at Saltley—in Adderley Park, which was also given to the town by the same gentle man—in 1864, and by the middle of 1865 the Central Library buildings were com pleted. The meeting of the British Association in Birmingham in that year wa fittingly commenced by the opening of the Central Lending Library and Newsroom on the 6th of September, the Bishop of Worcester, the present Earl of Derby, th late George Dawson and Archdeacon Sandford, and the mayor (Mr. Henry Wiggin taking part in the opening ceremony.

Meanwhile the formation of the Reference Library was being steadily proceede with, and suitable sites were obtained for further branch libraries. The 26th of Octobe 1866, was a red-letter day in the Birmingham calendar, for on that day the mayo (the late Mr. Edwin Yates) had the treble satisfaction of opening the third branc library, in Heath Mill Lane, Deritend, hard by the Old Crown House, the finest, an perhaps the oldest, example of domestic architecture in Birmingham; of laying th first stone of the fourth branch library, at Gosta Green, and of declaring the Referenc Library open to the people for ever. The inaugural address on this memorabl occasion was delivered by the late George Dawson—an address which may fairly b said to belong to the poetry of books, worthy of a high place in the literature of th Free Library movement.[1]

In the formation of the Reference Library the Committee set before themselve three principles:

I. That the library should, as far as practicable, represent every phase of huma thought, and every variety of opinion.

II. That books of permanent value and of standard interest should form th principal portion of the library; and that modern and popular books should be adde from time to time as they are published.

III. That the library should contain those rare and costly books which ar generally out of the reach of individual students and collectors, and which are no usually found in provincial or private libraries.

But the action of certain of our townsmen who desired to see established i the principal town in Warwickshire a suitable memorial of the great dramatist who, i

[1] This address is reprinted in "Shakespeare, and other Lectures," by George Dawson . . . Paul, Trench & Co., 1887.

an especial sense, belongs to Warwickshire, somewhat widened the original conception of our Reference Library in the formation of a Shakespeare Memorial Library. This library was opened in an appropriately fitted room in the central building in 1868, and consisted of a collection of all the known editions of Shakespeare's works, as far as they could be obtained, and all translations, together with the separate editions of the plays, from the original quartos down to the cheapest acting editions; and the great mass of literature which has gathered around the works of Shakespeare. This collection may be said to have acted as a loadstone in attracting gifts of rare books to the library, one of the richest being the choice collection formed by the late Mr. William Bragge, on the lines of the Shakespeare Library, consisting of the various editions of the works of Cervantes, and of Cervantes literature. So that the library was already in a fair way of becoming what George Dawson prophecied it would become, viz., a great cathedral of books, clustered round with literary shrines to the great writers of all ages.

And so, step by step, the work of providing for the literary wants of this great town was carried on. Four branch libraries had been opened, the central reference and lending departments were growing both in extent and popularity, and steps were being taken for the enlargement of the central buildings, when the calamity, which is doubtless fresh in your memory, robbed us of the carefully formed Reference Library, with all its special collections, and with a unique and irreplaceable collection of Warwickshire papers and books, which had only just been acquired and catalogued. An unfortunate workman had ventured to light a jet in the gas-pipe in close proximity to a heap of shavings, and some of these being blown by the wind across the flame were ignited and set fire to the library, and before the night of January 11th, 1879, had closed, nearly all the contents of our great treasure-house had perished. A few choice treasures were rescued: among them, happily, the MS. Gild Book of Knowle, 1407-1535, and some of the Shakespeare Books.

It is characteristic of the men who, almost without outside help, had raised this noble library, that they should meet, as they did, while the ruins were yet smoking, and resolve to rebuild the library, and to form a collection richer, if possible, than the one which had just been destroyed. Upwards of £14,000. was subscribed for this purpose in a few weeks and almost without solicitation, and offers of help came from all quarters. From Her Majesty the Queen, from the Trustees of the British Museum, from the Public Library Committees of several leading cities both at home and in the colonies, from most of the learned societies, and from the leading publishers, came rich gifts of books for the new library; the reconstruction of the building, rendered necessary by the fire, enabled the Committee to make better provision for the housing of the books, and for the convenience of the public; and on the 1st of June, 1882, the restored library was opened with nearly 50,000 volumes,—not a mere mass of books, but a carefully and judiciously selected library. From that time to the present the work of completing the library has been zealously carried on; the Shakespeare Memorial Library has been restored, and is more complete to-day than it was at the time of the fire; a fresh Cervantes Collection is gradually being brought together; and, although it is impossible to bring back the unique Staunton Collection, a new Warwickshire Collection is being formed, rich in manuscripts and drawings equally unique; and, owing to the indefatigable zeal of the chief librarian, an extensive collection of Birmingham books and pamphlets now replaces that which existed before the fire, and which rumour asserted to be Mr. Mullins' favourite child.

At the close of last year, the Reference Library contained 88,000 volumes and the issues for the year amounted to 384,124. In the five lending departments there are 57,349 volumes, the total issues for the year being 478,903. The new catalogue, which is a marvel of simplicity and clearness, is rapidly progressing, and, by a happy thought on the part of the librarian, is being issued in sections at intervals, so that we may already form some estimate of the fulness with which each department of knowledge is represented in the library.

During these years large populations had grown up around the skirts of Birmingham, to which the privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants of Birmingham, with its central lending and reference departments and its four branch libraries, were unattainable. But, in the years 1876-7, three of these outside communities took steps to secure similar privileges for themselves.

First the Local Board district of Smethwick—which had enjoyed the privileges of a good proprietary library, located in its public offices since 1871, and before that date as a Mechanics' Institute since 1857—made a successful effort to adopt the Free Libraries Act; and opened a free library, to which the books belonging to the proprietary library were transferred by gift, on the 1st of October, 1877. New premises were opened in 1880, and the library now contains 5,700 volumes. There is also a branch reading room.

The second movement in the outskirts of Birmingham took place at Handsworth, where the inhabitants, at a meeting held on the 26th of December, 1876, unanimously resolved that the Free Libraries Act be adopted. The income derivable from the penny rate being inadequate to furnish the library, a canvass was made, and subscriptions to the amount of £443 were obtained in augmentation of the public fund, and the library and newsroom were publicly opened on the 1st of May, 1880. The lending department now contains 7,876 volumes, and the reference department 1,127, among which are some valuable local books; and the lending library is said to contain the best collection of musical works to be found in any free library in the kingdom. A branch reading room has also been opened at Perry Barr.

Some months after Handsworth had adopted the Free Libraries Act, its neighbour the Manor of Aston took steps in the same direction. A meeting was held on the 15th of May, 1877, and the Act was adopted. A lending department was opened on the 4th of February, 1878, in a small room, which afforded scanty accommodation for the books and the librarian, leaving the public to obtain and exchange their books through a coach-house opening into the library room; and it was not until 1882 that the permanent building was finished and the library found a suitable home. But the delay worked advantageously, in some respects, for the library, for the working expenses in these four years did not exceed a halfpenny in a pound, and the proceeds of the other halfpenny were devoted to the collection of a working reference library, suited to the requirements of the district. For its size this library is rich in first-class books on art and art workmanship, architecture and applied sciences, as well as in the topography of our home counties. The reference department now contains 4,403 volumes, and the lending department 6,764 volumes.

From the Lending Library, books of a high class and of considerable value (including standard musical works) are issued; all the standard reviews, magazines, and representative weekly periodicals are to be found on the tables of the reading-

room ; and in the winter months popular lectures are delivered at fortnightly intervals. The library premises form part of the public buildings erected by the Local Board, the rooms being arranged so as to allow of constant supervision over all the departments ; and it is no small advantage to the Library Committee that they are generously relieved by the Local Board of the necessity of making any contribution towards the re-payment of the building loan, a nominal rent charge only being paid.

Looking away from Birmingham and its immediate neighbourhood, I scarcely know how to deal with the second part of my subject in the brief space of time allotted to this Paper. For the large area of brick and mortar which lies between here and Wolverhampton, comprising I do not know how many towns and local board districts, is dotted over with free libraries, until there is hardly a town or village in the whole region without its centre of intellectual light.

Beginning with West Bromwich, which is nearest to our own borders, where the Free Library was opened in 1874, we find a lending department containing 10,500 volumes, and a small Reference Library of 2,500 volumes, among which are some rare and valuable Staffordshire books. There are three branch reading-rooms in connection with this library.

At Wednesbury, the Act was adopted in 1877 and the library was opened in 1878. Here the lending department contains 7,000 volumes, and the reference department about 1,600. At Bilston, where the Free Library was established in 1872, there is a total of 7,000 volumes, of which only 600 constitute the reference library. At Brierley Hill there is a small Free Library, opened in 1887, and containing about 1,300 volumes. At Darlaston, where the Act was adopted in 1876, the library is also small, comprising only 2,500 volumes, the penny rate yielding less than £100 a year. Walsall adopted the Act early in the day, the library being opened in 1859, and it has a good lending department, comprising 12,500 volumes. At Willenhall, the library was opened in 1874, and has over 4,000 volumes.

At Wolverhampton, the Free Libraries Act was adopted, after considerable opposition, at a public meeting held on February 8th, 1869. The reading rooms were opened on the 30th of September in the same year ; and the lending and reference libraries were opened on New Year's Day, 1870. The lending library now contains 23,442 vols., and the reference department, which opened with 509 volumes, has now 4,610. In 1873, Science Classes were formed, and 348 persons availed themselves of the privileges of this department. These classes have steadily increased from year to year, new rooms having to be found for their continued growth. During the first year, 21 classes were formed ; and last year there were 30 classes and 971 students under instruction. Saturday evening lectures were inaugurated in 1874 in a small room holding about 70 persons ; now a large lecture hall capable of seating 550 persons is crowded nearly every Saturday evening. A Field Club is also organised in connection with the institution in the summer months, and various places of interest in the neighbourhood are visited.

At Lichfield there is a small library, lodged in a handsome building, which was opened as a Public Lending Library in 1864. It consists of about 3,500 volumes, including about 100 which are considered as works of Reference. Tamworth has recently adopted the Act, and has a small library and reading room in temporary premises.

At Coventry, where the Act was adopted in 1868, the Lending Library contains upwards of 17,000 volumes, and the Reference Department 5,700, including a curious collection of works on clocks and watches, the manufacture of which is one of the principal trades of the town. At Warwick, the Free Library was opened in 1866, and has a lending department of about 8,500 volumes, and a small reference department containing about 900 volumes. Leamington and Kidderminster were the pioneers of the Free Library movement in this district, and in both places libraries were established in the year 1857. In the former, there is now a lending library of 8,575 volumes, and a reference library (opened in 1873) containing 4,395. At Kidderminster, they do not appear to have moved very fast, notwithstanding the early date of opening; the lending library now contains about 3,800 volumes, and the reference department comprises little over 100 volumes; a branch library is about to be established in connexion with the School of Science.

There are yet a few places in our neighbourhood where Free Libraries have not been established. Some of our own populous suburbs must ere long become aroused to the fact that it is as much the duty of the public authority to make provision for the intellectual needs of a district as to provide for its sanitary well-being; and as it would appear that a revival of the Free Library movement is now upon us, it may be that the next visit of this Association to Birmingham may find the Free Public Libraries of this neighbourhood largely increased in number; and I trust that it may also find those Libraries already in existence largely increased both in extent and in usefulness.

THE CONNEXION BETWEEN FREE LIBRARIES AND ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS.[1]

By C. WHITWORTH WALLIS, Curator of the Birmingham Corporation Art Galleries and Museum.

THE intimate connexion of Free Libraries and Museums in their aims and the uses they perform in the education and culture of the people, must be apparent to all who take the trouble to consider their functions from the standpoint of a general principle in relation to the elevation of the masses. In the one case—that of the Free Library—the mind in its wider functions is appealed to; in the other—that of the Museum—the eye is the organ through which the perception of beauty and of proportion, and, one might almost say, the fitness of things, are conveyed to the mind. The unity of the purpose of the two appears to be essential to the perfect action of each, and one may almost be tempted to say that the one without the other is only half complete.

It is not the purpose of this Paper to go into any details of the early development of Museums and Free Libraries—and I advisedly place Museums first in this connexion, because the promoters of these institutions placed the Museum first, and the result was "An Act for the encouragement of Museums in large towns." It was thus far a successful effort to obtain an Act of Parliament for the establishment of provincial Museums, in 1844-5, which ultimately led to the adoption of the Free Libraries Act, an amendment to the original statute. My purpose, however, is not to go into the history, rise and progress of Museums and Free Libraries, but to show how intimately connected they have been and are working side by side in Birmingham.

[1] Read at the Birmingham Meeting of the Library Association, 1887.

As already stated, the Free Library aims more particularly at the education of the mind, whereas it is to the eye that the Museum more forcibly appeals; and to this education of the eye—this cultivation of the powers of observation—it is of all things necessary that earnest attention be paid; more especially in our great manufacturing centres, where we would desire that the eyes of designers and workmen, and, indeed, of the masters themselves, should be refreshed by the study and contemplation of the best and finest specimens of the arts and industries of all ages: which should be studied as guiding posts for the future, as they form the landmarks of the past.

It is interesting to note that when the original plan of the Birmingham Free Library was first submitted, the promoters, in accordance with the powers of the amended Act of Parliament, also provided for a Gallery of Art or Museum, but owing to various causes, it was found impossible to incorporate the same with the Library; in fact, it was not until 1864 that the first steps were taken towards the formation of the collections, when a picture of "Dead Game," by Edward Coleman, a well known Birmingham artist, was offered to the Town Council. During 1867, a room in the Free Library then being available, a collection of some sixty pictures was got together, about a dozen belonging to the Corporation, the remainder lent by the Society of Arts, the Midland Institute, or private owners. This was a small but unpretentious beginning, but that it was a welcome addition to the educational institutions of the town, and one which was appreciated by the public, is shown by the fact that from the 1st August to the 31st December (five months) the total number of visitors reached 34,560. From that period to 1870 remarkable progress was made. In 1870, however, a new era in the history of the Museum was entered upon, for by the exertions of Mr. W. W. Aitken, to whom the Museum and Art Gallery will ever be deeply indebted, the formation of an Industrial Museum was commenced, and a committee was appointed to collect funds to meet grants from the Science and Art Department. A sum of £1,100 was raised, and in the course of the year the purchases, together with the South Kensington and other loans, were arranged in the Gallery, attracting no less than 100,000 visitors. In 1872 the Gallery was opened on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons, and this admirable change, together with the new collections, took the number of visitors up to 145,000, an extraordinary number, when we consider that the Gallery was only one large room, 70 ft. long by 30 ft. broad; and it is to be noted with the greatest satisfaction that, despite the evening and Sunday opening, to which many of the townsmen were bitterly opposed, predicting, I believe, all sorts of ruinous disasters, the committee reported that amid all the crowding there had been no complaint as to the conduct of the visitors, nor the slightest injury to any works of art.

Time would not permit me to trace step by step the progress of the Museum, but I find that in 1876 an important addition was received by the presentation of the Museum of Arms, which had been collected and acquired by the Guardians of the Birmingham Proof House. This collection, consisting of some 1,000 specimens of armour, crossbows, guns, pistols, swords, &c., and comprising representative fire-arms from the earliest periods down to the present date, has but few equals; and to the many artizans employed in the gun trade these objects must have been of the greatest interest and service.

In 1876 the total number of visitors reached 400,000. In 1878, owing to the then existing gallery being required for the extension of the Free Library and Midland

Institute, the collections were removed to Aston Hall, a fine old Elizabethan mansion, about two and a-half miles from Birmingham. Being so far from the centre of the busy town the attendance fell off rapidly, inducing the Free Library Committee to very seriously consider the return of the collections and affording greater facilities of access. A temporary gallery was then proposed, but this unsatisfactory arrangement was effectually disposed of by the great generosity of an eminent firm of engineers, Messrs. Tangye, who, keenly alive to the disadvantages under which the artizans of Birmingham laboured, in comparison with many continental towns, where art collections were extensive and easy of approach, generously offered to contribute £5,000 towards the acquisition of works of art, if the Corporation would undertake the erection of a permanent art gallery within a specified time; and they further promised an additional £5,000, if the gift was met by adequate donations of equal amount. Messrs. Tangyes' liberal offer having been received by the Town Council, was referred to the General Purposes and Free Libraries Committees to report upon the best means of providing an Art Gallery and Museum adequate to the wants of the town. Then, however, arose an initial technical difficulty; and it is worth calling attention to, as it forms a useful point and is worthy of consideration in other towns, whenever the establishment of a Museum is brought forward.

The Council could provide and maintain the Art Gallery only out of the Free Library Rate. Now, the ordinary expenditure of the Free Library absorbed the full rate, and left no margin for either site or building. This led to considerable perplexity, but, fortunately, though the Council had no funds to build the Gallery, it had the power, under the Free Libraries Act, 1855, to appropriate for the purpose of such a Gallery any lands vested in the Corporation, and they were advised that they could exercise this power. Negociations were entered into with the Gas Committee, who were about to erect new offices, and the Council transferred the land to the Free Libraries Committee as a site for the Art Gallery, the Free Libraries Committee re-transferred it to the Gas Committee, as a site for their new offices, the condition being that over the offices of the gas department should be erected a Museum and Art Gallery.

The foundation stone was laid on the 19th July, 1881, by Alderman Richard Chamberlain, and, at the luncheon which followed, Mr. Richard Tangye signalized the occasion by presenting, in the name of himself and his brother, Mr. George Tangye, their large and valuable collection of Wedgwood, which had been formed at great labour and cost. The difficulty of providing a building having been disposed of, it was necessary to look around for the objects which should be exhibited there. The Birmingham Art Gallery was not to be merely a picture show, but a Museum of Decorative and Industrial Art, and the committee, being in possession of a building, decided not to rely upon loans from wealthy collectors, but to commence as soon as possible those collections which should for ever be permanently located in the town. Indeed, it is too much the fashion in providing Museums to start by a loan collection and continue the same, the committee often making no effort of their own to obtain permanent collections, with the result that provincial museums are often obliged to accept loans of indifferent quality, or to allow the rooms to remain empty. This is highly detrimental to the interests of the art workmen of the town, because bad art is worse than no art at all.

With the set purpose of obtaining permanent collections, an appeal was issued to

raise the additional £5,000 offered by Messrs. Tangye. The response was prompt and liberal, for within a few weeks £17,000 were subscribed. A portion of this large sum has been judiciously spent upon the acquisition of the excellent Italian collections—the finest in the provinces; on collections of arms, gold and silversmiths' work, iron and metal work, furniture, enamels, jewellery, porcelain, majolica, glass, together with other objects, and finally pictures. As the erection of the building was being proceeded with, other gentlemen in Birmingham, following the noble example of Messrs. Tangye, presented pictures and objects of great value: notably the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, who presented two fine Müllers, one being the now famous "Prayer in the Desert;" and Mr. J. H. Nettlefold, who presented no less than twenty-six oil paintings by the father of the English landscape school—David Cox. Time would not permit me even to enumerate the generous individuals to whom the gallery will ever be indebted for many excellent and valuable examples of art; but mention must certainly be made of the truly magnificent gift of Mr. John Feeney, who, having devoted some years to the formation of a large Oriental collection, selected with the greatest care and taste, has finally presented the whole of the same to the town, filling no less than twenty-four glass cases, which is in itself the nucleus of a Museum of Decorative Art.

The present building was opened to the public December 1st, 1885, and the return of visitors during the first year reached 1,105,268. This very unusual attendance, greatly in excess of the highest number of visitors at the South Kensington Museum, and representing nearly three times the population of the borough, speaks volumes for the public appreciation of the collections. Despite this enormous attendance, consisting for the most part of the artizan class, the Museum officials had no trouble in keeping order, and no objects were injured in any way. This is eminently gratifying, yet it is only what happens under all circumstances, when the people know that the place is their own, that they have a right to use it, and that they are consequently responsible for the preservation of order, and for the care of the valuable contents of the building. Such is a brief outline of the origin and progress of the Museum here.

Now as to the relations between it and its sister institution the Free Library. First of all, as before stated, their aims are identical, for they have in view the one end—the culture of the people; secondly, they appeal to the same mental faculties with which all men are endowed, in a greater or less degree; and thirdly, to a very great extent, one of them—the Museum—to carry out its proper functions, is to a great measure dependent upon the other—the library. It leans upon it as it were, it looks to it to minister to the Museum visitors that knowledge and information which the most comprehensive catalogues and labels in the world would fail to supply. In a case like Birmingham this is particularly the case, for the books on art and art workmanship, are as a rule beyond the reach of the ordinary workman, and his appetite having been whetted by a slight description of some object or process in the Museum, he must of necessity have recourse to the library to acquire further knowledge. This has been brought home to me several times since I have been here, by the numerous enquiries made by visitors, mostly of the artizan and poorer class, as to the best books to be read on such and such a subject. With this end in view, labels or lists have been prepared, which hang in the various galleries, containing the titles of the best works, elementary ones and others more advanced, which may be consulted with

advantage. Such terms as Majolica, Hispano-Moresque, Gothic, Renaissance, Cloisonné enamel, and countless others, are "caviar" to the multitude of our visitors. It is therefore necessary that, apart from short descriptive labels attached to the objects, and above all things every object should be so labelled, longer descriptions of the origin of the ware, or whatever it may be, and if possible various processes, should be added.

Such descriptions are the greatest possible incentives to visitors to further pursue the subject, and if their inclinations tend that way, they do so by betaking themselves to the Free Library. I find on going over the return of books issued in the Free Library reference department that, in 1882, the number of readers of books on science and art was just over 20,000; in 1886 the total amounted to 33,500. Of books taken home from the lending library for the purpose of study, and bearing upon the like subjects, I find that in 1882 the number of readers was 15,814, but in 1886 the total reached 30,162, an increase within five years of 30,000 readers; and surely among this grand total of readers there are many who have acquired a knowledge of things, of which before they were ignorant, whilst others would be encouraged to greater industry and higher and more noble aspirations: by such study the man would become a better mechanic, and the mechanic a better man.

It is quite unnecessary to lay any stress upon the importance of lectures on the books in the Free Library. A most interesting and instructive lecture on the art books of our library was delivered a little time ago, which was, no doubt, of service to our art workmen; and during last winter five popular lectures on the Art Gallery, with illustrations, attended by 4,000 to 5,000 people, contributed to the enjoyment and instruction of many; and led, I am sure, to the search for more solid information in the library, and further kindled an interest in the Museum Collections, which has been exemplified by the many offers of objects as gifts to the gallery, from those not overburdened with the good things of this world. I need not say that they were of a most miscellaneous character, ranging from the handcuffs worn by Palmer the murderer, the bridle of a celebrated race-horse, to pigs in soap and a dead octopus; but many of artistic merit were most acceptable, notably some old English enamels, embroidery, needlework, glass and arms, &c. In towns fortunate enough to possess a museum, free library and branch libraries, I would venture to suggest the advantage to be derived from the exhibition in the branch libraries of a case containing objects having, if possible, a direct bearing upon the industries which are practised in that locality. Such I believe would be of great service to the workmen, and an incentive to the perusal of special books. We have not attempted this at present in Birmingham, but I hope to see it some day carried out. We must not overlook in this connexion the influence of the School of Art, now equally as the Free Library and Museum a corporation institution. Its great function is the education of the hand and eye in the accurate delineation of form, as the first step to a sound and practical knowledge of art and its various technical processes. A small but well selected library has always formed part of its educational means, from its foundation in 1843-4 as a school of design, thus following the example of the central school at Somerset House, and subsequently under the Science and Art Department at Marlborough House, when the library of works on art was largely extended; and we now see the result in that magnificent collection of books on art, and portfolios of illustrations of design in the Art library of the South Kensington Museum. The small library in connexion with

the Birmingham School of Art is, considering its size, most complete. Birmingham then has to congratulate itself upon possessing these three institutions, all working, each in its own way, to the same end, the elevation of the whole people, and that too with ample provision for their perpetuation and adequate sustenance. If this example should, in the future, influence other towns to establish and provide the same privileges for their population, the reward will be all the greater to those persons who, by their insight, liberality and public spirit, originated and developed our own Museum, School of Art and Free Library.

WANTED A LIBRARIAN.[1]

By J. Y. W. MacAlister.

On the 30th February, 1887, the following advertisement appeared on the first page of "The Lyceum":—

WANTED A LIBRARIAN.—In consequence of the death of Mr. Fossil the Committee of the Blankborough Public Library are prepared to appoint a Librarian. Applications, accompanied by a statement of qualifications and previous experience, together with 20 printed copies of Testimonials, must be sent in not later than the 1st of April. Salary £500 a year, with Residence.

Such an advertisement we may well believe caused no little stir in the breasts of many librarians—and of the 200 and odd applications sent to the Committee, a goodly number were from men of varying degrees of fitness, whose work and training thoroughly justified them answering an advertisement headed "Wanted a Librarian." To quote from the Blankbro' Chronicle:—"When the Committee held their first meeting, they found the material from which they had to select was as varied in quality as it was ample in quantity. The degrees of fitness ranged from that of a country signalman of literary tastes to the chief librarian of the important and successful Library of Dashtown, who was tempted by the larger salary to try to improve his position.

"Between those extremes, there were retired military and naval officers, unbeneficed clergymen, unsuccessful doctors, lawyers and schoolmasters, with a sprinkling of decayed tradesmen."

The selecting Committee had no difficulty in disposing of the ambitious signalman and the decayed tradesmen—and very little in eliminating the bulk of the other unlikely candidates—but when it came to the turn of the quasi-professional men, some of the weaker members felt that it would be disrespectful to treat these gentlemen in the same summary fashion and a second meeting was decided upon.

When this was held there was much talk—the practical member proposed that the final list should only contain the names of candidates who had been actually engaged in library work, but he could not find a seconder—and when the final list was decided upon, it contained the names of three librarians and of four gentlemen who had had no experience of library work, but whose more showy qualifications greatly attracted some of the Committee. The favourite with the dilettanti was a gentleman who had presided over a missionary school in the Andaman Isles, and who, after seeing his last and favourite pupil barbecued, had decided to return to England for the benefit of his health. He brought with him a valuable accomplishment in the shape of a fluent

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[1] Read at the Birmingham Meeting of the Association, September 1887.

command of Andamanese—and this produced a great effect upon the imagination of the dilettanti.

"It's all very well," said their spokesman, "to have a man who can make catalogues and classify books and all that sort of thing—but these things are soon learned —and almost anyone can do them—whereas, a man with a knowledge of the rarer and more erudite languages is very difficult to find"—and so the list was sent up to the General Committee. Then began the tug of war; the Practicals and the Dilettanti occupied the interval before the final decision in beating up the electors and pouring into them their arguments in favour of their champions, and even a little irregular sparring in the shape of letters to the papers was indulged in. A gentleman signing himself "Philologer" discoursed at length on the value of Andamanese. "French, German and Italian were only 'Common Dosset' and could be had easily enough and cheaply enough at any time—but Andamanese! If the Committee showed their good sense by appointing a master of this rare acquirement, what other public library could boast of possessing such a treasure? The Public Library of Blankborough would stand proudly alone."

The Practical men ventured to point out that there were no Andamanese books in the library, that no one in Blankbro' was anxious to learn this language or to study its literature; and it was feelingly hinted that in such a philological desert the gentleman from Andaman might feel lonely.

On the other hand, they said that while the late Mr. Fossil was undoubtedly a marvel of out-of-the-way knowledge, and was reputed to know by heart the contents of every book in the Library, he had been jealous of any one who might emulate his erudition, and was prone to keep readers at a distance. Now he was dead no one knew where anything was, nor what the Library contained; and to make the Library really profitable to the ratepayers, a thorough reclassification of the books and a good catalogue were absolutely necessary.

And so the wordy war was waged until the day of election.

The Committee mustered in full strength, and Blankbro' was on the stilts of excitement. The question whether Blankbro' was to be only one of many towns possessing a good Library and a practical Librarian, or to be *the* town which alone could boast of a Librarian who knew Andamanese, was to be decided. The Committee proved worthy of the great trust reposed in them, and equal to this crisis in the history of their town. Blankbro' should be unique, and the gentleman from Andaman was elected by a large majority.

In case there should be a Scotchman present who should, if we believe Charles Lamb, take everything literally, I perhaps ought to explain that the foregoing extract from the columns of the *Blankborough Chronicle* is not a literal statement of fact, and yet, unfortunately, is very far from being a fancy sketch. The story is, as the small novelists say, "founded upon facts," and facts so serious and so common as to demand the serious attention of this Association. In view of them, we may well enquire with Truthful James:

"Do we sleep—do we dream?
Or is visions about?
Is things what they seem?
And is the librarian played out?"

I hope we shall be able to prove that he is not, and that the explanation of these unpleasant "Visions" is rather that he has not yet got his innings.

When Committees advertise that they want a Librarian, and straightway appoint a man who only wishes to become one, it is clear they do not recognise that there is any art, craft or science in librarianship. The public asks, "Is there any art in librarianship?" and if we—the Library Association—are not able to answer with an emphatic "Yes," and to give good reasons for the faith that is in us, we are bound in common honesty to acknowledge ourselves peripatetic humbugs, make our final bow to the too credulous gentlemen who are so generously entertaining us, and retire with what grace we may.

What is Librarianship, then? I am not disposed to claim for my work a sounding title not spontaneously conferred upon it, and would rather follow the example of the wise man who, in deprecating his admirers' proposal to erect a statue in his honour, said, "I would rather posterity said of me, 'Why is there no monument raised to his memory?' than that they should say, 'Why has a monument been erected to *him?*'" and therefore I do not call librarianship a profession, whatever the exact value of that expression may be. One of the most honourable of the professions of to-day was known in its youth as a craft—leechcraft; and I will at least claim, and that stoutly, that librarianship is a craft.

Like other crafts, it has its "art and mystery," and it is the wisest and most experienced of us all who will most readily acknowledge how difficult it is to be a master of his craft.

Bradshaw—a name ever to be held by us in affectionate reverence—briefly defined a librarian's duties as being, in the first place, designed to save the time of readers. He told us, in his Presidential Address at Cambridge, that he found he could always learn something from the youngest of practical librarians, and that the longer he lived the more he realised how absolutely essential to good Library work—even in apparently trifling details—were practical knowledge and methods evolved from long experience.

A generation or two ago a snug library appointment was looked upon as a fit and proper means of endowing a scholar, or providing for an effete clergyman or schoolmaster; and, as things went then, this view of the case was a fair one. In those days a library was a place in which to *keep* books—in the sense defined by Mr. Timmins' shrewd distinction—a mere store-house, and almost any prudent and trustworthy person was equal to the duties of librarian.

But this generation has changed all that; we live in an eminently practical age, and in the struggle for existence every institution, no matter how venerable, must prove its utilitarian value, its reasons for existing, or disappear; and so it has been with libraries. Their custodians have had to set their houses in order, to sweep and garnish them, and make ready for the eager hosts in search of knowledge. With the change in the libraries a corresponding change in their keepers became necessary, and the modern librarian has been evolved. Porson would to day be an impossible librarian. A committee who only saw their librarian when he attended to draw his salary, would with scant ceremony inform the erudite gentleman that the occasion of his next visit would be his last. *Apropos* of this subject, one of the London papers a few months ago sneered at the modern librarian, and said they would rather see more Porsons and fewer practical librarians.

But surely there is manifest wrong-headedness in this view of things. I would be the last to disparage culture and erudition—as compared with a business-like

knowledge of the best method of *distributing* knowledge—but I claim that there is something radically wrong in a policy which would endow one Porson at the cost of depriving the budding Porsons of the future of their natural and necessary nourishment. Let this be clear. A librarian's chief function is not to *know* for himself, but rather that he may help others to gain knowledge. The same may be said, but in a much more limited sense and with a difference, of the schoolmaster. He assimilates knowledge in order to reproduce it to his pupils in a form suitable to their understanding. The librarian must wander through the pastures of knowledge with a self-imposed muzzle, nibbling and tasting such a variety and profusion of herbage as would be utterly beyond the powers or profitable use of one individual, but which enables him readily to lead to the right spot every seeker who asks his help.

A librarian is a host at the banquet of knowledge and, like a true host, should be assiduous in securing the comfort of his guests, and in placing before each just the kind of food he likes and requires. This duty discharged, it must be a churlish guest who will grudge the host a dish for himself when all else are served. And here I would appeal against the common interpretation of that too often quoted saying of Mark Pattison's: "The librarian who reads is lost." When I say rather that the librarian who does *not* read is lost, I am sure Pattison would have been the first to own that my apparent contradiction is nearer the truth he meant than is the common and surface acceptation of his dictum.

I fear that this saying has been a source of lazy comfort to some so-called practical librarians of illiterate tastes, who are fain to perk themselves in self-satisfied glorification of their own methods, to the fancied disparagement of their more studious brethren.

By practical I do not mean mechanical, but that is I fear what is too often intended when the word practical is used in connection with library work and librarians; and what our newspaper critics aimed at when they compared the practical librarian with a Porson. Your true practical librarian does and must read much, but he reads first for the sake of his readers; and with a true catholicity, ranges from the heights of transcendentalism to the depths of Zolaism. He must consort with zealots and with fanatics, but keep his own head cool and his own judgment clear; and every day he has to solve the problem of touching pitch without defilement. He reads first, and, in a sense always, for the ultimate profit of his masters—the public. But we must not deny him his own well-thumbed favourite, when, with a sigh of pleasure, he shuts himself in for the night; and, beside a cosy fire and a well-trimmed lamp, enjoys his well-earned hour with the friends of his choice. His wife, secretly as pleased as himself at the prospect of wiping off the day's score of cares with a sponge dipped in the ever-sparkling waters of a Montaigne, a Bacon, or a Lamb, will, perhaps, say to him tenderly "Are you not tired, dear, of those musty Books?" and he answers "Yes, I should be, dear, if it weren't for —— Books!"

The librarian who only calls himself practical because he is illiterate, busies himself with buckram, is dogmatic on classification, and waxes hot in discussing the precise shape and size of catalogue cards. He it is who talks loudest about the "Profession." The good librarian cares for these things but as aids to his higher work—his true vocation. He must be the guide, philosopher and friend of all his readers, kindly and thoughtful for the youngster or mechanic who revels in "Jack Sheppard," with pleasant tact dealing with the flighty young lady enamoured of questionable fiction, and gravely helpful to the philosopher and man of science. His

taste is catholic, and he permits "Jack Sheppard" because he hopes that taste will rise to better things, and with righteous guile he will lead it upward. He first loves books for their own sake, and he knows whether the binder has scamped his work. He knows his Lamb by heart, and he knows better than to bind him in sheep.

Libraries have been spoken of as schools—schools for adults. Carlyle said they were the true universities of to-day. The lowliest of them is at least a class-room in the great school of life. And if they are justly so described, surely we should exercise the same care in choosing our librarians as the authorities of a school display in the choice of a schoolmaster. Now-a-days the Admirable Crichton himself might as well hope to add flying to his many accomplishments, as apply to a School Board for the smallest of masterships, without the certificate that he had been specially trained for the duties he proposed to undertake.

But while all this care is very properly taken in selecting a man to teach the A B C, mere rule of thumb is good enough to find a man fit to direct the most important of libraries. In electing a man of culture and education, the electing committee congratulate themselves on having done well; and in the course of a few years their choice, if he be worth his salt, will justify them. But who can calculate the opportunities lost, the time wasted, the work lost to the world, in consequence of bad classifying and worse cataloguing. Students and workers are left to help themselves, or worse, are misdirected, while the man of general culture is serving his apprenticeship to the craft of librarianship.

A spark of fire, the circles on the surface of a disturbed pond, the fate of a ship carrying a false compass or lured by a wrecker's light, are not too serious similes that suggest themselves to us at the thought of an error of judgment in cataloguing or in classification. The least mischief that can follow from such a mistake is the premature, if perhaps temporary, burial of a book; its loss to the reading world of which that library is the centre. And if the man who kills a good book is, as Milton says, as great a criminal as a murderer, what are we to say of the man who buries a book alive.

Some of the leading papers have recently touched on this subject, and one of them truthfully said "committees do not appear to regard the practical knowledge of a librarian's business as an indispensable qualification." The reason is simple. They do not understand that our work is a business in itself. They are as a rule men of average intelligence, and would laugh to scorn the idea of employing a man as a responsible head in any craft, business or trade, to which he had not been trained. The committee, that were proud of their choice of the gentleman from the Andaman Islands, would consider any man a lunatic who would have voted for him as a borough surveyor, an officer of health, or as a town-clerk. And may we dare to whisper, as the explanation fairest to their common sense, of this seeming contradiction, that, while to all of them good roads, clean sewers and sound law are things understood and to be desired, to the bulk of them literature is unknown or misunderstood as a mere luxury.

Were it otherwise, if the committee realised that the gentleman from Andaman, in spite of his rare accomplishment, must for many months be at the mercy of his own assistants and serve an apprenticeship to his own staff, while the committee paid a heavy premium not only *for* the apprentice but *to* him, surely the same sound common-sense which guides them to choose a good lawyer for a town-clerk, and a good doctor for their health officer, would undoubtedly cause them to choose a good librarian for their library.

I have said that I merely desired to start this subject as one that calls for grave

discussion, and perhaps for serious action; but before sitting down I would venture to hope that no librarian will be tempted to treat it in a spirit of Trades-Unionism. This would indeed be a grievous mistake. To exclaim against outsiders receiving good appointments will only provoke cynical and sarcastic rejoinders, unless we can show that such a practice is a dead loss to the libraries concerned. If we magnify our calling, let us back ourselves with hard fact, and the eminent common-sense of the British public will fight our battle for us. If we cannot do this, if our protests partake in the least of personal spleen or offended vanity, it were better at once to hide our diminished heads and wind up the affairs of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

MEMORIAL TO THE TREASURY ON THE MUSEUM GRANT.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the recent meeting of the Library Association in Birmingham, the following Memorial has been forwarded to the Treasury:—

To the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The humble Memorial of the Library Association of the United Kingdon humbly sheweth:

That the Library Association is an association of librarians and others interested in promoting the best possible administration of libraries in the United Kingdom, and consists largely of provincial librarians, and the members of library committees.

That at the Annual Meeting of the Association, held in Birmingham, in September last, a resolution was passed, expressing regret at the reduction in the grant for the British Museum, and instructing the Council to present a Memorial to your Lordships on the subject of the reduction of the sum granted to the authorities of the British Museum, for the purchase of books and manuscripts.

That in pursuance of the foregoing resolution, your memorialists beg respectfully to represent to your Lordships:—

1. That the annual grant of £10,000. for the purchase of printed books, and of £2,500. for the purchase of manuscripts, is very far from excessive.

2. That it has, with but slight and occasional fluctuations, been voted by Parliament since 1857, and that on no occasion has the least opposition been raised from any quarter.

3. That, while the grant has thus remained stationary, the amount of valuable literature which is being published is continually increasing, and the appreciation and use of the Museum Library has greatly extended, as is shown by the increase of nearly 60 per cent. in the number of visits paid to the Reading Room during the last ten years.

4. That the Trustees have materially increased the usefulness of the establishment by printing and distributing the catalogue, and opening the Reading Room to a late hour in the evening.

5. That the recent reduction was made without any previous notice to the authorities of the Museum, and without sufficient consideration of its probable consequences.

6. That the sum now available being nearly absorbed by indispensable

purchases of new foreign books, and provision for periodicals and other works in progress, the reduction has fallen entirely upon the purchase of books necessary to supply deficiencies already existing in the Library, and that in consequence all systematic exertions to supply such deficiencies must be suspended.

7. That the reduction in the grant to the MS. Department renders it impossible to compete at sales for valuable MSS. of historical and literary importance, which are consequently continually being lost to the country.

8. That, unless the Museum Library is to forfeit its position among the libraries of Europe, the reduction will necessarily entail an increased expenditure in future years.

Wherefore your Memorialists respectfully represent to your Lordships that it is for the public interest that the grant to the British Museum for the purchase of Books and Manuscripts should be restored to the former amount.

Signed on behalf of the Library Association of the United Kingdom:

G. J. Johnson, *President.*

Ernest C. Thomas
J. Y. W. MacAlister } *Hon. Secretaries.*

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING.

AT the January Monthly Meeting, held at Gray's Inn Library on January 6th, the papers read were: "Obituary Notice of Mr. G. W. Porter," by Dr. Richard Garnett; and "Book-Speech and Folk-Speech" by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister.

The following new Members were announced: Mr. William Gibson, librarian, Free Library, Truro; Mr. A. W. Hutton, librarian, National Liberal Club; Mr. T. H. M. Poulton, librarian, The Admiralty, Whitehall. Mr. Luke Bishop was proposed for election at the next Meeting.

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING.

AT the February Monthly Meeting, held at Gray's Inn Library on February 3rd, a Paper was read on "The Author of the Scottish Hudibras," by Mr. Robert Bowes. The recently-published French *Album Paléographique* was exhibited and explained by Mr. E. C. Thomas.

Mr. Luke Bishop was elected a Member.

IN answer to the Memorial to the Lords of the Treasury on the subject of the reduction of the Museum Grant, Mr. W. L. Jackson, M.P., Financial Secretary, has replied that "The question is receiving the careful attention of the Trustees and of the Treasury."

THE Council have assigned as the subject for the Borrajo Prize Essay this year "The History of Printing in England to the year 1800." Essays should be sent in to the Hon. Secretaries not later than the 1st September.

Library Notes and News.

BEDFORD. — The twenty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Literary and Scientific Institution and General Library was held on January 26. The committee report an increase of membership. The receipts were £849 18s. 6d., and the expenditure left a balance in hand of £8 18s. 8d.

BELFAST.—The Library is now approaching completion, and it is hoped that some member of the Royal Family will be induced to open the Library during the summer.

BIRMINGHAM.—About three hundred volumes, many of them being valuable books, have been stolen from the Birmingham Central Library. Many of them, being duplicates, were without the Library stamp. John W. Heppel, aged 22, late an assistant in the Library, has been committed for trial on the charge of stealing these books.

BOOTLE. — On January 10th, J. W. Scholefield, Esq. J.P., gave a lecture at the Library on "Books and Reading." This was the fifth of a series of fourteen free lectures arranged under the auspices of the committee. The librarian and curator (Mr. J. J. Ogle) delivered the first of a series of informal lectures on the objects in the museum on January 11th, taking for his subject "The Birds of Prey."

BRIGHTON.—The Town Council are considering the question of establishing a Lending Library. About £2,000 has been raised for the purchase of books.

BRISTOL.—A new Branch Library was opened at the Hotwells on January 25th. There are 16,500 volumes in the lending department.

DOVER.—A fire occurred at Dover on January 12th, which unfortunately destroyed the books belonging to the Proprietary Library, numbering 6,000 or 7,000 volumes.

DUNDEE.—Mr. John Keiller, of Dundee, a Member of the Committee of the Albert Institute, has undertaken to clear off the debt of £10,000 on the Institute.

GUERNSEY.—Mr. Cotgreave has been engaged to arrange and catalogue the States Library in the Channel Islands.

HAVERFORDWEST. — It is proposed to establish a Free Library at Haverfordwest.

HUCKNALL TORKARD.—The new Free Library, erected at Hucknall Torkard, at a cost of £2,000, through the munificence of Mr. J. E. Ellis, M.P., and Mr. G. B. Paget, was opened on Jan. 17. The building, which overlooks the Market-place, is a very handsome addition to the architectural features of the town. In addition to the library there is a large reading-room and smoking-room. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. Ellis, who was accompanied by Mr. Burt, M.P.

LEEDS.—A course of Free Library Lectures is being given at Leeds.

LEICESTER.—At the meeting of the Town Council on Jan. 31, it was decided, after some discussion, to confirm the recommendation of the Library Committee to determine the engagement of the Chief Librarian by three months' notice.

LIVERPOOL.—The Library Committee are considering a scheme for the provision of district reading-rooms and lending libraries, which involves new buildings for the present north and south lending libraries, and the provision of a library for the east end in Kensington Fields.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN. — Lord Brassey has consented to preside at a meeting to celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the opening of the Bethnal Green Free Library, in March next.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—Mr. Quinn, head of the cataloguing staff at the Liverpool Free Public Reference Library, has been appointed as Chief Librarian of the Chelsea Free Public Libraries, from 150 applicants. He and his assistant, Mr. Preece, late of the Barrow Public Library, entered upon the duties on Dec. 26.

LONDON: FULHAM.—The Library Commissioners have obtained the consent of the Local Government Board to borrow £6,000.

LONDON: GLADSTONE LIBRARY.—The Gladstone Library at the National Liberal Club is now nearly ready for opening. Shelving has been provided for twenty thousand volumes. Mr. A. W. Hutton, M.A., has been appointed librarian.

LONDON: GUILDHALL LIBRARY.—The following are the statistics of attendances for 1887:—Library: day, 113,497; evening, 33,074; total, 146,571. Reading-room: day, 104,886; evening, 23,647; total, 128,533. Museum: 105,211. Total for the year, 380,315. Daily average attendance, 1,344.

LONDON: KENSINGTON. — On New Year's Day the Free Library at Notting Hill was formally opened by the Library Commissioners, which was established by Mr. James Heywood, F.R.S. thirteen years ago, and presented to the ratepayers on their adoption of the Libraries Act. Mr. L. Herbert Jones has been appointed Chief Librarian and Secretary.

LONDON: NEWINGTON.—The poll on the question of the adoption of the Libraries Acts in the Parish of St. Mary, Newington, was taken on Feb. 8. The votes were, for 3,606, against 4,319, majority against 713. Less than two-thirds of the ratepayers voted.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—The Guardians of this Parish have been desirous of forming a library for the children boarded out. The Local Government Board authorities are of opinion that the Guardians have no power to defray any part of the cost of such a scheme as that proposed.

LONDON: PUTNEY.—Mr. Tweeny, sub-librarian of the Swansea Free Library, has been appointed Librarian of the Putney Free Library.

LONDON: ST. PANCRAS.—On Jan. 19 a deputation had an interview with the Charity Commissioners, at Whitehall, to ask for a substantial contribution from the funds of the City Parochial Charities, for the purpose of establishing free libraries in St. Pancras. Mr. Anstie, Q.C., in reply, said that the Commissioners had shown their sympathy with the free libraries movement. But the difficulty was that this was a local application rather than one for the whole of North London, such as the deputation asked for the other day for South London, who disregard parochial and parliamentary boundaries. He hoped that they would consider the matter so that the Charity Commissioners might contribute money in a methodical and therefore economical manner. He

would include in a scheme for North London the parishes of St. Pancras, Islington, Hackney and Stoke Newington. They were in favour of central institutions, with a net-work of smaller libraries.

LOWESTOFT.—The Annual Meeting of the subscribers of the Public Library was held on Jan. 30. The report was very favourable. It was stated that it was intended to open a free reading-room to the public. The expenditure was £120, leaving a balance in hand of over £28.

LUDDENDEN.—The 105th Annual Supper of the Luddenden Library was held on Jan. 7th. The library contains about 1,500 volumes, and is the oldest in the parish of Halifax.

LYNN.—The Annual Meeting of the Stanley Library was held on Jan. 16. The subscribers for the year were 360, and the income was £110 11s. 3d. The decrease in the membership hampers the work of the library.

MANCHESTER: FOREIGN LIBRARY.—The 60th annual meeting of this library, which has over 12,000 volumes of foreign literature, was held on Feb. 2. It was reported that the number of subscribers had increased, and the finances were in a satisfactory state.

MANCHESTER: FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—The first of a series of lectures, arranged by the Free Libraries Committee, was given at the Hulme Free Library on Jan. 18, by Mr. Charles Rowley, on "General Reading for Busy Men." The other lectures will be delivered at the various branches.

MANCHESTER: PORTICO.—The annual meeting of the proprietors of the Portico Library was held on Jan. 16. The chairman reported that the balance against the Institution was increasing.

MONK BRETTON.—A poll of the ratepayers on the question of adopting the Libraries Acts was taken on Jan. 28, when the votes were: for 20, against 74, majority against the Acts 54.

READING.—The Library Committee has recently entered into an arrangement with the School Board for the use, as an experiment, of a portion of one of the Board Schools as a free evening reading room.

ROCHESTER.—The Free Library being established in connexion with the Jubilee is nearly ready for opening. The committee hope to be able to maintain the Library by voluntary contributions, without the aid of a rate. About £600 has been raised by public subscription.

SALFORD.—The Libraries Committee have decided by fourteen votes to seven to recommend the opening of the Free Libraries and Reading Rooms on Sunday afternoons. The matter was before the Council at its February quarterly meeting, when after a long discussion the further consideration of the matter was adjourned. The question is exciting very considerable public interest.—On Jan. 21 the members of the Manchester Geographical Society paid a visit to the Free Library at Peel Park on the invitation of the Library Committee. About a hundred ladies and gentlemen attended, and Major Plant, the librarian, exhibited the geographical collection in the library.

SELKIRK.—A gentleman has offered to purchase the prison at Selkirk, which is being closed, and to present the property to the town for a public library. The offer has been accepted.

STOCKTON.—A movement has been set on foot for the establishment of a Free Library for South Stockton.

TAUNTON.—A poll was taken on the question of adopting the Libraries Acts on Feb. 5, when the voting was: for 309, against 956, majority against 647. When the poll was taken five years ago, the majority against the Acts was 1,555.

TAVISTOCK.—The annual meeting of the Public Library was held on Jan. 17. The number of members was reported as 112, being an increase of 7. The income was £172 6s. 2d., and the expenditure £151 17s. 1d.

TRURO.—The annual meeting of the Public Library was held on Jan. 9. The number of members is 156, the income was £189, and the expenditure £165. There are now 16,678 vols. in the library, besides pamphlets. The chairman announced that £1,300 had been promised towards the new library.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Sir John Lubbock, on Feb. 1, delivered an address in favour of the establishment of a Free Library.

WEST COWES.—A poll was taken on Dec. 17 on the question of the adoption of the Libraries Acts. The votes were: for 120, against 204, majority against 84. About a thousand ratepayers did not vote.

YARMOUTH.—The Annual Meeting of the subscribers of the Public Library was held on January 11th. The income for the year was £220 5s. 6d., and the expenditure £219 18s.

YORK. — The ninety-fourth Annual Meeting of the Subscription Library was held on January 13th. The income was £455 4s. 8d., and the expenditure £495 12s. 9d. The number of volumes in the Library is about 31,000.

DR. RICHARD GARNETT gave a lecture at Toynbee Hall on January 28th on "The British Museum and its Books."

Mr. F. PACY, librarian of the Richmond Free Library, read a Paper at the Richmond Athenæum, on February 6th, on the "Humours of Criticism," which is printed in the *Thames Valley Times* of the 8th.

IN the *Birmingham Daily Mail* of January 18th appeared an interesting article, "A Few Hours in the Free Library."

ON December 23rd the colleagues and friends of Mr. J. H. Quinn, of the Liverpool Free Library, presented him with an illuminated address and a tea and coffee service, on the occasion of his leaving Liverpool to take charge of the Chelsea Free Public Libraries. The presentation was made by Mr. Cowell.

THE following correction of Rule 1 of the Bodleian Cataloguing Rules has been made. The words corrected are "The typography and punctuation of the title need not be strictly adhered to" (see Rules printed in *Monthly Notes*, vol. iv., pp. 5 foll., 31 foll.): "The type of the title-page need not be imitated, but in points which are common to printed and written hands—such as contracted forms, the use of i for j, j for i, u for v, v for u, uu or vv for w, long f for s—the title-page should be strictly adhered to, except that as regards the use of capitals in the middle of a sentence Rule 3 should be followed. The punctuation of the title-page should never be *changed*, but stops may be *added* when (*and only when*) they are absolutely necessary for clearness.—Criticisms are invited, but the above is in force till any alteration is notified."—No criticism has been received from the staff in answer to the above circular notice.

LEGAL difficulties are still being interposed in the way of carrying out the Libraries Acts in some of the London districts in which they have been adopted, especially in Bermondsey and Clerkenwell. The representatives of several of the London districts have brought before the Charity Commissioners their claims to a share in the benefits of the moneys available under the recent City Parochial Charities Act.

FROM an article on "Female Assistants in Libraries," which has appeared in the *Englishwoman's Review*, it appears that the Manchester Free Libraries employ more women than any other free library. Forty-two women and girls are there employed, one of them being librarian at the Ancoats branch, the others being assistants at from 10s. to 21s. a week. Bristol employs 25 female assistants, and women are also employed at Bradford, Blackpool (where the librarian is a woman), Derby, Sheffield and St. Helens.

MISS ELLEN M. COE has sent us the Eighth Annual Report of the New York Free Circulating Library for 1887 (8vo., pp. 43). The total circulation for the year was 221,509, which was a decrease of 12,939 on the previous year. The number of readers using the reading-rooms was 101,993, being 6,763 less than the previous year, which is explained to have been exceptional. The Libraries are open on Sunday evenings. The expenditure was $15,447.76, a portion of which was spent on two new libraries which are in preparation for opening. The total stock at the two libraries is 29,008 volumes. We notice that the Library has its own bindery.

AT the Annual Meeting of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, held at Boston on January 4th, the librarian, Mr. John Ward Dean, reported that the number of books in the library was 23,627 vols. and 68,109 pamphlets.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Borough of Bootle-cum-Linacre. Catalogue of the Free Public Library. ... compiled by John J. Ogle, Librarian. Bootle: 1887. 8vo, pp. 126. Price sixpence.

A neatly printed catalogue in double columns on the dictionary plan, the subject entries being printed in black-faced type. Under 'English History' is a convenient list of authorities chronologically arranged. Under 'Chronicles and Memorials' the Rolls Series is set out; but it is hardly accurate to say of the whole series that "the text is generally given with a translation." The catalogue is an excellent piece of work.

Barrow. The Fifth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library Barrow-in-Furness, 1886-7. Barrow: 1887. 8vo, pp. 17.

During the year the books were transferred from the temporary building to large and convenient rooms in the new Town Hall, and the library was opened by Lord Hartington on July 14th. The issues for the year were in the lending library 77,565—an increase of 5,322; and in the reference library 16,888, a small decrease, perhaps due to the removal. The additions to the library were 1696. The number of visitors to the newsroom averages nearly 1500 daily.

Leamington Free Public Library. Annual Report, 1886-87. 4to, pp. 8.

During the year non-ratepayers have been admitted to use the lending library on payment of a subscription equal to the rate which they would pay if ratepayers. The issues from the lending library were 48,441 against 36,860 the previous year. The issues from the reference library were 6,798 against 8,298 the previous year. The rate produced £547 9s. 4d., and the expenditure exceeded it by £1. The stock of books in both libraries is 12,841. "The thanks of the committee are due to Mr. Grant for his assiduous attention to the duties of his office."

St. Helens. Tenth Annual Report of the Committee of the St. Helens Free Public Library, 1886-87. St. Helens: 1887. 8vo, pp. 19.

The issues from the lending library were 90,367 against 84,836 the previous year; in the reference department 4,063, a slight decrease. The attendance at the reading rooms has been 239,468 against 202,859. On Sundays 10,416 visits were paid to the reading rooms, an increase of 1,823. The addition to the stock during the year was 1,441 vols. A branch library was opened at East Sutton with a stock of 746 vols. The rate produced £745 os. 11d., and the expenditure, £797 5s. 4d., was exactly balanced by the sale of catalogues, fines, etc.

Swansea. Thirteenth Annual Report of the Public Library and Gallery of Art Committee, 1886-7. Swansea: 1887. 8vo, pp. 30.

The committee of the Swansea Library are in an unfortunate position. They have obtained a splendid building, but its cost has to be defrayed at the rate of £800 a year, leaving only about £300 for the working of the library. The result is that they are quite unable to purchase new books, and the issues have fallen off. They suggest an application to Parliament for power to increase the rate, and we hope that they may succeed. The issues were, in the lending library, 56,895 vols. against 65,538 last year; from the reference library 77,623 against 82,626, but this department was only open 183 days. Mr. Deffett Francis presents a separate report for the Art Gallery.

Borough of West Bromwich. Thirteenth Report of the Free Library Committee. November, 1887. 8vo, pp. 28.

The issues in the lending library were 65,909, a slight decrease; in the reference department 1,753. The subscription department has bought 197 works, at a cost of £96 9s. 11d., and circulated 3,419. The stock is now, in the lending library 10,508 vols., in the reference library 2,491 vols. There are three branch newsrooms. The rate for the year produced £560 12s. 2d., the total income £744 19s. 3d., and the expenditure £721 os. 9d.

We have received letter "B" of the Catalogue of the Reference Department of the Wigan Free Public Library (4to, pp. 93-269). This is an excellent catalogue of an important collection of books. We have already noticed the section Bibliography; and this instalment contains also such important headings as Bible, Biology, British Museum and Botany.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Haarlem the Birth-place of Printing, not Mentz. By J. H. Hessels, M.A., Cantab. London: Elliot Stock and Co., Dec. 1887. La. 8vo, pp. xiv. 85. Price 5s.

This book is a reprint, with slight modifications, of the articles which appeared in the Academy last summer over the signature of the writer. They are written with Mr. Hessels' usual acumen and complete mastery of the subject, and form a most damaging indictment against Dr. Van der Linde's latest and most ponderous work. To review it in a few lines is impossible, but we need hardly say that it is indispensable to the critical student of early typography, as well as of the thorny controversy with which it deals. There is a full index.

Sammlung bibliothekswissenschaftlicher Arbeiten herausgegeben von Karl Dziatzko. I Heft. Wilhelm Brambach, Psalterium, bibliographischer Versuch über die liturgischen Bücher des christlichen Abendlandes. Berlin: Asher, 1887. 8vo, pp. 56.

The first publication in the series of essays projected by Prof. Dziatzko, to which we have already referred, will be of interest chiefly to specialists. It presents an account of the development and differentiation of the various service books of the Church, taking the Psalter, as being the universal and essentially invariable portion of the daily service, as the main subject of the enquiry. The series promises to be clearly and handsomely printed, and the treatise before us is well indexed.

Della compilazione dei Cataloghi per biblioteche . . . di Charles C. Jewett. Prima versione dall' Inglese a cura del D^e^ Guido Biagi. Firenze: Sansoni, 1888. 8vo, pp. ix. 120. Price L. 5.

It is a sign of the growing interest in questions of library administration and bibliography that a "Biblioteca di Bibliografia e Paleografia" is being published in Italy. A translation of Prof. Dziatzko's rules has been already published, and the publication before us performs a similar service for the book published by Mr. Jewett, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, as far back as 1850. A translation of Mr. Cutter's rules is also announced, and therefore we reserve a fuller notice of the present book. The series is printed in an edition of 350 copies only.

Visconte Colomb de Batines, Giunte e correzioni inedite alla *Bibliografia Dantesca*, pubblicate di sul manoscritto originale . . . dal D^e^ Guido Biagi. Firenze: Sansoni, 1888. 8vo, pp. ix. 265. Price L. 15.

Another publication in the same "Biblioteca" consists of the additions and corrections made by the Vicomte Colomb de Batines in a copy of his well known bibliography of Dante, published in 1845-8. This interleaved copy is now in the National Library at Florence, and the work of editing has been performed by Dr. Biagi, the librarian of the Biblioteca R. Marucelliana in that city.

The Committee of the Manchester Free Public Libraries have issued a neat little "Handbook, Historical and Descriptive" (Manchester: Heywood, 1887, sm. 8vo, pp. 60), which has been compiled by Mr. W. R. Credland. It is designed to promote the usefulness of the libraries by making their resources more fully known, to provide answers to questions continually being put. It is excellently put together.

Prof. Melvil Dewey proposes to print a new edition of his "Decimal Classification," with some thousands of new entries, and has issued a circular inviting additions and corrections, with a view to make the third edition as complete as possible.

We have received the second number of Mr. Petherick's *Colonial Book Circular*, which is henceforth to be called *The Torch*. The number contains a select list of English and American Magazines, in which we do not notice the *Library Chronicle*.

Correspondence.

Library Expenditure and Salaries.

A circular addressed to 17 Free Public Libraries of towns under 100,000 in population has elicited replies from which the following result has been obtained. From 3 places the data are incomplete. In 6 places, having a total income from Rate and Endowment of £4,256 per annum, and paying no rent, and under no charge for loan, the outlay in salaries and wages amounted to £1,549 8s., exclusive of payments for

cleaning. This gives £361 salaries and wages of staff in every £1,000 of income. In 8 places, where the total income, after deducting payments for rent and repayment of loan, amounted to £5,893. The expenditure on salaries and wages amounted to £2,109 18s., which gives £358 salaries and wages for every £1,000 income, less rent or rent-equivalent. Thinking these results are worthy of permanent record for the guidance of new Committees I venture to send them. JOHN J. OGLE.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

Now that there is a slight feeling of alarm in the country at the rapid spread of Small Pox, it may not be out of place to mention the plan adopted in our town for preventing the transmission of infectious disease by means of our circulating department. There can be little doubt that circulating libraries sometimes become a source of danger in this respect, not from carelessness or ignorance, but from the great difficulty of knowing the infected households. A slight suspicion of danger in this direction soon affects the issues, for timid people cease from borrowing, and the figures drop accordingly. There is therefore a strong reason why the reading public should be made aware of the provisions made for their safety in this respect, and when it is once known that effective measures are taken to secure immunity from infection, the borrowers will use the Libraries without the slightest fear or hesitation.

The following description of the means we adopt is given partly in consequence of our having received many inquiries on the subject, and partly in the hope that it may serve as a hint to those who have not thought of similar precautions.

In the first place, by reason of a clause in a recent Improvement Act relating to the borough, the Corporation have power to compel all medical men within its area to report any cases of infectious disease which may come under their notice. This clause, by being strictly enforced, becomes the key-stone of our system. The medical officer of the Corporation then furnishes us with a list of all such reported cases, which is carefully compared with the file of borrowers' application forms, kept in alphabetical order to facilitate reference, and although no less than 9,000 borrowers have been entered this year in the central and seven branch libraries, there is no difficulty in at once comparing the medical officer's statement with the roll of borrowers. Suppose a case to be found, the next thing is to ascertain whether or not the borrower has a book in his possession. If a book be issued, the medical officer is furnished with title and other particulars; his assistants then seize the book and convey it to the Fever Hospital for the use of the patients there. Formerly the books were destroyed, but the present way of disposing of them is a much better one. Should the borrower have no book issued to him, a circular is forwarded informing him that he will not be allowed to borrow again until the house be declared free from disease by the Medical Officer. As a further precaution the Sanitary Authorities always make special enquiries at infected houses as to whether any books belonging to the library are on the premises. This is necessary, because it sometimes happens that books from other borrowers find their way into such houses.

From the foregoing account it will be seen that the essential point lies in the compulsory report of infectious diseases by the medical men within the borough, for without this it would be impossible to carry out the plan satisfactorily. In some towns the infected books are simply disinfected and returned again into circulation, but this is hardly so satisfactory as the above-mentioned way, as there is always a suspicion that the disinfecting process may not have been properly carried out. Our Sanitary Committee, in order that we may be at no pecuniary loss, have decided to pay for all books taken under this arrangement.

This is a brief account of our plan for dealing with such cases, and as the subject is of some importance, I trust my brother librarians will, with your permission, throw out in these pages any suggestions or hints bearing on the question.

BUTLER WOOD, (Chief Librarian,) Bradford.

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The Library Chronicle.

THE ACTION OF GAS ON LEATHER BOOK-BINDINGS: A PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTAL ENQUIRY.[1]

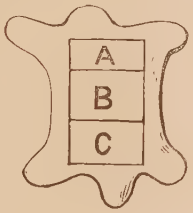
By C. J. Woodward, B.Sc.

Recently a sub-committee of the Birmingham Library had to consider the question of improving the lighting of the Library, and, as a member of this sub-committee, I undertook to obtain authoritative information as to how far the general belief that burning gas is injurious to leather is well founded.

Having made enquiries in all directions, and looked up the literature of the subject, I found that there was really no systematic experimental evidence on the question, hence I determined to make at least some preliminary experiments. These experiments were directed to the two following enquiries :—

1. Is leather after exposure for some time to a foul atmosphere produced by burning gas seriously deteriorated?
2. If so, is this deterioration due simply to the high temperature of the foul atmosphere, or is it due to the products of gas-combustion, or is it due to the two causes combined?
3. To what extent is the sulphurous product of burning gas absorbed by leather?

The mode of experimenting was as follows :—Strips of brown calf leather, each strip 1 ft. long and 1 inch wide, were cut from a skin and numbered in pairs, each pair being from corresponding parts of the skin, as shown in the diagram.



A set of these strips, those taken from the butt end (C in diagram), were divided into two sets of 10 each, the one set being placed in a fume chamber with the exit

[1] Read at the Birmingham Meeting of the Library Association, September 1887.

closed, and the gas lighted, while the other set was put aside in a room in which gas was rarely used.

The gas in the fume chamber was turned down until a fairly constant temperature of about 130° F. to 140° F. was obtained (for a few hours, near the close of the experiment, the temperature was inadvertently allowed to rise as high as 162° F.); and after exposure to the foul atmosphere of the chamber for 1000 hours, the strips were tested by means of a dynamometer, and compared with the similar strips which had been put aside in a comparatively pure atmosphere.

The strips, marked B in the diagram, were also divided into two sets, one of which was placed against a steam-pipe wrapped round with felt, and the temperature noted, while the corresponding set was kept in a room at the ordinary temperature. The steam-pipe was in constant use, and after exposure for 1000 hours, the strips were removed and compared with the companion strips, by means of the dynamometer.

Experiments were finally made as to the absorption of sulphur compounds by the strips exposed to the foul atmosphere of the burning gas, the strips being tested as to the amount of sulphuric acid they would yield.

As some members of the conference may not be acquainted with the use of the dynamometer, I may, perhaps, be allowed to say that the instrument consists of a spring balance placed at one end of a board, while at the other end is a screw working in a nut fixed firmly to the board. When a wire or a strip of leather has to be tested, one end of the strip is attached to the spring balance, and the other end to the screw.[1] On turning the screw, the wire or strip is put under strain, the strain in lbs. pressure being recorded by the balance, while the increase in length by stretching is marked by a side index. The instrument is arranged so that when the strip breaks, the maximum strain to which it has been subjected is permanently recorded.

PARTICULARS OF THE EXPERIMENTS.

Strips near Butt-end of Skin C *in Diagram.*

Kept Free from Gas at Ordinary Temperature.			Kept in a Foul Gas Atmosphere at a Temperature of 130° F. to 140° F. for 1000 hours.		
No.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.	No.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.
1	12	30	1	5	10
2	7	23	2	6	18
3	7	36	3	6	19
4	12	35	4	4	14
5	12	33	5	4	12
6	7	28	6	2	12
7	8	34	7	6	21
8	10	38	8	6	20
9	11	37	9	8	26
10	12	60	10	5	18
Mean	10	35	Mean	5	17

[1] In the particular form of instrument used in the experiments, the strip of leather was passed round two reels, one connected with the spring balance, the other with the screw, and the free ends were then clamped together, so that the strip became an endless band.

Experiments on Strips exposed to Heat without burning Gas.

Strips marked B *in Diagram.*

Strips kept at Ordinary Temperatures.

No.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.
1	8	23
2	10	50
3	10	25
4	15	36
5	17	35
6	17	48
Mean	**13**	**36**

Strips kept for 1000 hours at a Temperature of 196° F.

No.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.
1	4	21
2	8	37
3	6	19
4	10	26
5	12	39
6	12	25
Mean	**9**	**28**

Strips kept at Ordinary Temperatures.

No.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.
7	10	29
8	15	49
9	14	58
10	12	32
11	21	42
Mean	**14**	**42**

Strips kept for 1000 hours at 142° F.

No.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.
7	10	39
8	10	25
9	12	30
10	11	49
11	21	65
Mean	**13**	**42**

Experiments to determine the amount of Sulphur Compounds absorbed by Leather exposed to Gas.

The strips which had been kept free from gas were boiled in distilled water, and the decoction tested for sulphuric acid, but only a trace was found. A portion was afterwards dried and deflagrated with nitre, and the resulting mass examined for sulphuric acid, but no appreciable quantity could be detected.

Several of the strips which had been exposed to gas were then examined for sulphuric acid, with the following results expressed as per-centage of sulphuric acid ($H_2 SO_4$).

No. 1. 1·33.
5. 2·92. directly over gas jet (dark).
6. 1·99.
7. 1·45.
9. 1·97.
10. 1·06.

Mean of the 6 determinations 1·78%

Conclusions to be drawn from the experiments.

The leather exposed to the foul air of the fume chamber, in which gas had been burning for 1000 hours is seriously deteriorated, for the extent to which it will stretch is reduced from 10 per cent. to 5 per cent. or as 2 : 1, while the strain it will bear is reduced in the ratio of 35 : 17, or about 2 : 1.

The leather exposed to a temperature of 196° F. for 1000 hours in an atmosphere free from products of gas combustion is deteriorated, for the extent to which it will

stretch before breaking is reduced from 13 per cent. to 9 per cent., while its breaking strain is reduced from 36 to 28.

When leather is kept at a temperature of 142° F. for 1000 hours, the mean stretching and the mean breaking strain being practically equal, the inference is that a temperature of 142° F. for 1000 hours has no marked effect upon leather.

Sources of error in the experiments.

1. It is assumed, when drawing conclusions from the above experiments, in relation to the use of leather for bookbinding, that the breaking strain of leather measures its value as a binding material for books.
2. The above assumption being made, the only source of error in the experiments is that which arises from want of equality, as regards the pairs of strips tested. If we could be quite sure that a pair of strips was of equal width and equal thickness, and equal quality of leather, it is obvious that our conclusions would be accurate as to the action of gas and heat, even though the difference in breaking strain were slight. When, however, we are confronted with the fact, that in at least two of the points mentioned, viz., thickness and quality, there may be considerable variation, we can only draw a correct conclusion when the difference of breaking strain is very marked, as it unquestionably is in the first set of experiments—those relating to the action of burning gas.

In order to obtain some idea as to the probable variations in strength of pairs of strips, a further experiment was made, by comparing directly strips 1, 1′, 2, 2′, &c., cut from a hide, and immediately testing the pairs by means of the dynamometer. The following results were obtained. The strips 1, 2, &c., are from the right-hand side of the hide, while the strips 1′, 2′, &c., are from the left-hand side.

Experiments on strips of calf, cut in pairs, 1, 1 ; 2, 2, &c., as shown in diagram and tested with dynamometer.

No. of Strip.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.	Difference in Breaking strain of pairs in lbs.	No. of Strip.	Stretching expressed in hundredths of original length.	Breaking strain in lbs.	Difference in breaking strain of pairs in lbs.
1	10	23	18	8	15	45	3
1′	12	41		8′	17	48	
2	10	27	19	9	12	49	− 3
2′	12	46		9′	17	46	
3	12	26	20	10	19	54	− 4
3′	17	46		10′	12	50	
4	10	26	17	11	15	50	− 4
4′	17	43		11′	12	46	
5	15	33	12	12	12	45	− 7
5′	21	45		12′	12	38	
6	15	29	12	13	9	39	− 7
6′	15	41		13′	12	32	
7	15	41	5	14	10	26	7
7′	17	46		14′	12	33	

The numbers with minus sign prefixed indicate that the strips on the right-hand side were stronger than those on the left, while the figures without sign imply that the strips on the left-hand side were the stronger.

From these experiments it would seem that, in comparing a single pair of strips, there is a possibility of error equal to 20 lbs., while comparing 14 pairs of strips, and taking the mean, the error is about 6 lbs. As the variation of breaking strain is so considerable, I do not think it is safe to draw any inference from the experiments as to the action of moderate temperature alone on leather.

It must be understood by the Conference, that these experiments are only preliminary ones, and rather suggestive of the direction in which the Library Association might work, to arrive at a sound conclusion as to the action of gas and heat on leather.

I see no reason why, if a sufficiently extended series of experiments were made, it might not be possible to devise a method of testing leather for binding purposes before it is used, so that for example, before a binding contract is given out, it might be stipulated that the leather should resist certain tests, much in the same way that contracts for iron and steel are controlled by the Admiralty.

In conclusion, I should wish to express my thanks to one of my pupils, Mr. W. E. Weaver, who has assisted me in this investigation, and by whom the various analyses and measurements have been made. My thanks too, are due to Mr. Hack of the Corporation Gas Department; and to his chemist Mr. J. W. Morrison, for the facilities they have given for carrying out some of the experiments at the works.

NOTE.

It will perhaps be convenient to have placed on record, in a brief form, such references as I have been able to find on the subject of the action of gas on book-binding, together with replies received from various enquiries made.

GUILLAUME DEPPING suggests a Committee composed of Chemists and Librarians to take into consideration the question of the action of gas on bindings. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Conference of Librarians held in London* 1877, p. 50.

EDWARD B. NICHOLSON mentions that the binding of the books in the upper shelves, Boston Athenæum, which is not artificially lighted, fall to pieces sooner than those below. He attributes the decay to heat drying up the moisture in the leather. *Loc. cit.*, p. 124.

W. F. POOLE states that deterioration goes on in libraries where gas is never used, and considers chief injury arises from heat. *Loc. cit.*, p. 148.

JOHN WINTER JONES considers that nothing can be more destructive to books, and especially to their bindings, than unconsumed gas. *Loc. cit.*, p. 7.

A Committee of the Manchester Athenæum investigated the action of gas on books, and consulted Professor FARADAY and others on the subject. "The general conclusion arrived at was that the evil arose principally from the acid vapours evolved by the combustion of the gas with which the rooms were lighted." *Loc. cit.*, p. 232.

MR. THOMAS MIDDLEMORE, of Birmingham, an extensive leather merchant and manufacturer, states in reply to a question from the author, that in his opinion "burning gas is only injurious to leather in so far as it dirties or discolours it. * * * I have found some ferments like glucose injure leather by altering the fibre, but I imagine that the effects of any gas products would have an exactly opposite tendency."

Mr. Henry B. Wheatley refers to experiments made by Dr. CRACE CALVERT in 1851, and referred to in volume 57 of the *Transactions of the Society of Arts*, p. 120. Dr. Calvert believed that much of the evil was caused by the imperfect tanning of the leather, and he arrived at the conclusion that the idea is erroneous that removing by ventilation the sulphurous acid produced in the combustion of coal gas will remedy the evil, though it may diminish it.

BOOKS BEFORE PRINTING.[1]

By J. W. Bradley.

As the brevity of my title may possibly lead to its being misunderstood, let me say at once that I have no intention of discussing the question of author's "copy" or how books are prepared for the press, although, no doubt, that might be made an interesting subject for a Paper. My purpose is to say a few words about the history and condition of books before the invention of printing. In doing so, however, I shall leave out all about the Egyptian rituals, and the story of Eumenes of Pergamos, and Crates the grammarian, who is said to have first used vellum. I shall omit all about the Hebrew rolls and their vicissitudes, and shall not trail back my subject to the far off antiquity of the East; nor shall I, least of all, presume that I can offer this Association any information on the hackneyed topic of "charta bombycina," or "papier de lin," with the usual trite allusions to Ovid and Martial and St. Jerome and the rest, with which and whom you are all, presumably, quite sufficiently acquainted; but my aim will be to give a few informal particulars about certain books, as typical of the state of book production, and of one or two famous mediæval libraries, as examples of the rest. I shall dwell on one in particular, which existed in all its splendour at the time when the discovery or invention, which still causes so much discussion and inquiry, changed the method of production so entirely, as to create an apparently new art. Perhaps some of you may feel incredulous, if I tell you that the principle of producing a number of impressions of the same figure or picture in a book was known to the old illuminators, and used long before the fifteenth century. Nevertheless, such is the fact. It is a fact that the method of taking transfers, either by stamps or stencils, of frequently recurring subjects was practised in the twelfth century, and probably also as early as the time of the Emperor Augustus; and there is good reason to believe by the vase-painters of Etruria, if not earlier still by those of Greece and Egypt. Delicate plates of brass were used to produce a sort of pattern and enable the illuminator to make his capitals of equal size. The characters traced on mummy-cases in Egypt, and on Etruscan vases, seem to have been produced by similar means, and the portraits in the works of Pomponius Atticus, mentioned by Cornelius Nepos, and in those of Varro, referred to by Pliny, are said to have been, at least in outline, produced by some mechanical contrivance; and, consequently, it is conceivable that the idea of the printing press, and the use of moveable type set together in a frame, may have readily occurred to more than one person at the same time, just as the discovery of the Differential Calculus occurred simultaneously to both Leibniz and Newton, and the suggestion of the planet Neptune to both Leverrier and Adams. When times are ripe for inventions, they are apt to spring into existence in several places at once, for they are the outcome of the maturing of human thought, expressed, it may be by one individual, it may be by several, but produced and accepted because the moment of their birth has arrived and the world has need of them.

But before talking about a Mediæval Library, it may be well to mention or suggest what I think may have been the mediæval conception of a book. I am rather at a loss for a concise term by which readily to refer to the manufacture of these old books in their totality. If I set aside the question of the use of cotton or silk or linen paper, as not greatly affecting the overwhelmingly prevalent use of vellum from the

[1] Read at the Birmingham Meeting of the Library Association, September 1887.

seventh to the fifteenth century, I might refer to the whole Mediæval Period as the Vellum Age—somehow as archæologists talk of the Stone Age and the Iron or Bronze Age, and I might then refer to the present as the Paper Age. No one passing along New Street here, or the Strand in London, in the early evening would venture to assert that this is not the Paper Age. Those who were engaged in the confection of Mediæval books, in the first place, went for greater wear and repeated use of things than we do now. Even when they had paper they seemed to have preferred vellum or parchment. Perhaps their *carta*—card, as it might well be termed—was somewhat too thick and cumbrous for book use; at any rate, they wanted a book to last for some time. One means of insuring this result was the vast bulk to which they extended their usual bookish topics. I need simply refer to their poems and their theological treatises. In monastic times, literary leisure was by no means a mere figure of speech, so even the Abelards and Occams and Gersons, and the rest of the hot controversialists, did not rush into publication, and letters to *The Times* were, happily, not yet possible. They either let talking—of which they did an amazing quantity—assuage their bile, or if wrangling, as it was technically understood, fell short, they retired to their several *scriptoria*, and shed their ideas and their ink in wrathful torrents over quires of indignant parchment. But this was only among a certain class, the class about whom, naturally, we are better informed than about those who had little or nothing to do with books. I need not say that, on the whole, a book was more of a luxury to a Mediæval reader than it is now to us. Yet books were not so rare as we are apt to imagine. There were cheap books in the Middle Ages as well as dear ones; students' inexpensive manuals, as well as lordly copies of Romances, Treasures of Sapience, expensive Mirrors of History, or delightsome Gardens of Morality. The poor but honest learner at the University of Paris, when that famous university had its thousands of *alumni* on its books, could buy or borrow his copy of the Summa of Aquinas for three sous;[1] the *Infortiat*, or second book of the Decretals, for four sous; and one of the *Items* of the statutes provided that the university booksellers, "nihil exigent, nec ab emptore acta studente *Parisius*, ultra quatuor denarios de libra, et ab extraneis sex denarios." And another *Item* provides, "quod ipsi librorum utilium pro studio cuiuscunque Facultatis exemplaria prout melius et citius poterunt, procurabunt ad commodum studentium et stationariorum utilitatem." That is "that the booksellers should procure as promptly and as cheaply as possible the copies of such books as were used by the several Faculties, for the convenience of the students and the benefit of the stall-keepers or stationers."[2] But though these well-thumbed copies may still be seen—the bulk of the hoards of MSS. in our great libraries consists of such—still, on the whole, and compared with the mass of mediæval society, a book was a luxury: and it was clearly felt to be such from the manner in which, outside scholastic usages, it was commonly treated. In the acceptance of this feeling, those who could afford embodied and concentrated in and upon the book everything that learning and art and skill could bring together; hence a Mediæval book, quite apart from its subject, has usually more individuality about it than a modern one.

Many years ago, soon after I first began the study of illuminated books, and on a date which itself is memorable—the year of the Great Exhibition of 1851—I saw two

[1] About 15s. of our money.

[2] Statutes of the Univ. of Paris, 1342. Chevillier: L'Origine de l'Imprimerie de Paris, Paris, 1694, 4to., p. 304.

manuscripts at the British Museum which I can never forget, so deep was the impression they made upon my imagination and memory; and, although since that time I have seen some of the richest treasures in Europe, in the cities of Belgium, France, Italy, and Germany—the splendid relics of Mathias Corvinus, of the Medici, and of the Valois; I shall always think fondly of those two Harley MSS. as long as I live. One was the "Romance of the Rose" (Harl. 4,425), a large thick folio of the fairest vellum, full of lovely illuminations, and borders, and initials. I knew nothing of styles or periods of art. I had not then rubbed off the bloom or patina of ignorance by classification and comparison. I could not have told you that it was a fine Flemish MS., of about the year 1480, executed, doubtless, by a well-known miniaturist and scribe, but who, unluckily, cannot be identified; but I have always felt that the Harley, who is known to schoolboys as Speaker of the House of Commons about 1700, and afterwards as Earl of Oxford and Mortimer, and who had the unspeakable privilege of poring over these MSS. whenever he found sufficient leisure from State affairs, must have realized Sylvester's verses about true content. I always looked upon him as a happy man. I do not suppose he even read the "Romance of the Rose;" I do not suppose any person here present ever read it. I have said the Mediævals meant their books to last—I meant as to wear; but I imagine they had the further intention of inexhaustible supply, for this same "Roman de la Rose" contained no fewer than 22,000 (nearer 25,000[1]) verses, 4,000 of which had been contributed by the original author, and the rest by the continuator. The continuation was in reality a satirical attack upon contemporary manners under the very thin disguise of an allegorical romance of adventure, and its topical allusions at times too broad and too coarse either to be misunderstood or quietly tolerated. I have not time to speak of the narrow escape of the author from the due reward of his libellous and scandalous remarks on the fashionable ladies of Paris, all but inflicted upon him by a deputation of the ladies themselves: this you can find duly recorded in the *Bibliothèque* of Du Vergier. Of the original poem Chaucer attempted a translation into English, and Caxton also printed a fragment of it; but neither got much beyond the first instalment. But the Museum copy—which the original Harley Catalogue mistakenly suggests was written for Henry IV.;—is so magnificently illuminated in the sweetest colours richly heightened with gold; is so full of charming pictures—stories they were called—and lovely borderings of flowers and fruit, and butterflies, birds, beetles, and I know not what else, and jewelled initial letters, that you are enticed on from leaf to leaf like a bee in a flower garden, down to the very last; wearied by, but not weary of, the ever-varied sweets afforded by this true "Hortus Deliciarum." It is a masterpiece of expression in its figures, and of technical skill and consummate craft-knowledge in its manipulation. But the other volume I found, for several other reasons, still more interesting than this. It was the Poems of Christine de Pisan (Harl. 4,431). The authoress was one of those who heartily disapproved of the principles and morals of the "Roman de la Rose," and wrote a severe epistle upon it, contained in this very volume, besides a number of rondels, ballads, and other pieces more or less witty, but painfully tedious to peruse. This volume also is richly illuminated. Let those who possess or have seen what they suppose to be MSS. illuminated in the "richest style" of the art go and take a look at this Harley MS., which in execution is only one among hundreds of high-class vellum books, and they will then be able to estimate

[1] See for comparison Egert. 2022, Brit. Mus.

the notion of what is excellent and what is not in these matters. Time will not permit me to describe; yet I must just complete the idea, not of the subject, but of the substance of the book. An enormous folio, such as those *Infortiats* spoken of by Boileau in his Lutrin, bound in superb blue velvet, gilt edged as to the leaves, and filled with page after page of delicious pictures, to which no description can do adequate justice. To some of my hearers, however, a further charm attaches to this volume in the numerous signatures of its various possessors. Originally executed for a princess — apparently for Isabella of Bavaria, the mistress of Christine — it dates after 1402, for the pieces in it were not all written until then, and was, just possibly, one of the 843 volumes bought in 1429 by the Duke of Bedford. Let me say here, *par parenthèse*, that the Duke did not set the example of "those literary spoliations of conquered lands" — followed afterwards by other victors, as stated by Van Praet (Notice sur Louis de Bruges, 89.) This question of capture and recovery of art property is one that is worth looking into, and would shew some curious vicissitudes in books and pictures, but it is certain that the great English prince did not make loot of the Louvre Library. He had it catalogued and valued, and paid the estimated price for it before its removal to Rouen and Winchester. The sum he paid was 2,323 *livres tournois*, equal to about £1,000 of English money, according to M. Léopold Delisle, or £10,000 according to M. Barrois. But whatever the nominal amount, we may form some idea of the purchasing power of the money from the fact, that when the 843 books were bought, the livre, or pound of twenty shillings, would buy a horse, or three cows, and we know that horses at this stage of the great French war were not plentiful. At any rate, the book was in England in 1433, and in possession of the then Duchess of Bedford. Another possible explanation of its advent is suggested. The late Duchess Anne, sister of Philip of Burgundy, may have been presented with the book by her brother, and brought it in 1423, on her marriage to the Duke, for Christine lived for some time as a guest of the Duke at Bruges. She died in 1429 or 1430. On the fly-leaf is the signature of Jaquette or Jaqueline of Luxembourg, the youthful second duchess, and under it, that of her son, Antony Wydville, together with the "devise," or motto, "Nulle la vault." The Duke of Bedford died at Paris, in 1435, and in 1436, the widowed duchess, we are told by Monstrelet, married of her own choice a young knight and handsome gentleman, named Sir Richard Wydville, who paid a fine of £1,000, nearly half as much as the late Duke had paid for his books, for marrying the young widow without the Royal license. So you see some known historical personages have turned over those leaves and amused themselves with the lovely miniatures. It is pretty certain further, that the book was in possession of the Wydvilles, in 1472, passing, it may be from Antony—Lord Scales, afterwards Earl Rivers—the accomplished knight and poet, to his fair sister Elizabeth, who, in 1464, became Queen of England, and by her, or the King, transferred as a gift to their illustrious guest, Louis of Bruges, Sieur de la Gruthuyse, who came in 1472 to England to receive the thanks of the King and Parliament, and the grant of the Earldom of Winchester.[1] On his return to Bruges, he took this Book of Christine back with him, and put his well known signature and motto into it, and we may rest certain that it remained in his library as long as he lived, namely until 1492. It has been traced to the spot where it would rest among truly congenial company, for the library of Louis of Bruges was, without controversy, a truly

[1] See the account of this visit in Archæologia, xxvi., 265-286.

typical Mediæval library. Its contents have been described and discussed by several able writers, including MM. Van Praet and Léopold Delisle, and to them I must refer you for particulars. A truly princely collection—almost every one of its nearly 150 volumes of MSS. being rich with paintings and superbly bound. Much of the splendour of a Mediæval book is due to the use of heraldic devices, arms and mottoes, and these volumes are no exception to the rule. They bear the Gruthuyse escutcheon—the emblematic device of the flaming mortar and ball, the monograms, L. and M., for Louis and Marguerite de Borssele his wife, frequently altered in the books that were taken to Paris, into L. A., for Louis XII. and Anne of Brittany, and the motto in Flemish, "meer es in u," and also in French, "plus est en vous." In the XVth century nothing could be done without heraldry. Our modern indifference to it has resulted partly in our national loss of the sense of colour. I think it distinctly a loss. And thus the splendid garniture of Mediæval life has gone perhaps for ever out of our taste. I suppose we, of the modern world, can only hope for our books or apparel to regain some of the fascinating splendour of their vellum and velvet predecessors, when we ourselves shall have grown intolerably weary of the dismal monotony of our dress coats and polite head gear. Ladies have some taste still left of this vanished glory of colour —but it is only in ceremonial and court life where the colour-sense, as Mr. Grant Allen would call it, is retained with anything like Mediæval seriousness. Tastes and fashions have changed; our books and garments,—our churches, as some think, are uglier—possibly we ourselves are uglier than were our fifteenth century predecessors: I will not discuss the question, but pass on to say that the library of Louis of Bruges would answer any question regarding Mediæval literature, in whatever department you might select. Its importance, too, is enhanced by the fact of its existence in its full glory at the time when the change from the written to the printed book took place. The Sieur de la Gruthuyse was born in 1427, and died in 1492. He was one of the principal figures in the political and military history of the times. He was immensely wealthy, popular, highly cultured in all the polite literature of the age—a master of all military and knightly accomplishments, and accumulated his books for his personal solace and gratification, and by no means for ostentation, or as a fashionable craze, like the modern collecting of postage-stamps or gathering of potsherds. He differed most distinctly from his fastidious contemporary, the Duke of Urbino—in his approval of the new art of printing—nay, he even stood at the font as godfather to the baby of his copyist and printer, Colard Mansion.

Colard Mansion, translator, copyist, bookseller, agent and printer, was the first who, about the year 1475, introduced the art of printing into Bruges. Twenty years before, he was known in Bruges as a copyist and translator, for in those days scholars and gentlemen did not disdain the printer's craft. In 1450 Mansion copied the famous Mediæval chronicle of Roman history, called the "Romuléon," which, in its cover of blue velvet, was placed among the 940 MSS. which then formed the Ducal Library of Burgundy at Bruges. In 1454 Mansion joined the new confraternity, first formed in that year, and which, with a little stretching of its name, might be called the Library Association, or Bookdealers' Guild of St. John, the register of which still is kept in the Public Library of that city; and, as anything of a bibliographical nature, such as an excursion to Stratford or Althorpe, falls naturally within the range of the present Association, so anybody having anything, more or less remote, to do with the fabrication of books, naturally became a member of the Guild of St. John. It included women also, and

was kept up by a monthly payment or subscription. Glancing over the register we notice that the Association included booksellers, miniaturists, or, as they were called, vignette makers, scribes or copyists of books, schoolmasters, image dealers, illuminators, printers, whether from blocks or types, binders, parchment makers and dealers, schoolmistresses, letter-founders, painters, and sculptors of images.

There is an intimate connection between Mansion and the history of English printing. Caxton, who had been trading in the Low Countries as a merchant, was asked by the young Duchess Margaret of Burgundy, sister of Edward IV., and third wife of Charles the Bold, to translate for her use a popular French story-book which Raoul Le Fevre had translated from the Latin. This he did, and Mansion was engaged to print it, under the title of the "Recuyell of the Histories of Troy." It was issued in 1474, and was the first book printed in the English language. You observe it is the translation of a translation, and was translated by Caxton. The word translate in the 15th century was both French and English, and with absolutely no difference of meaning. In that age translation was as common as it is now; and I can tell you, an author lost nothing by it, for what with the leisurely diffuse style of expression, and moralisations, and commentaries, the original author would find it difficult to recognise his own ideas; still they were there among the crowd, but costumed according to the times, as all the pictures were, whatever might be their subject or the epoch of the world's history to which they might refer. Within two years after the Recuyell, Caxton himself set up a press in the precincts of Westminster Abbey, and in 1477 produced the first book printed in England, "The Dictes and Sayings of the Philosophers," which was a translation, of course, from the French, and from a book already printed by Mansion, "Les Dits Moraux des Philosophes," by Guillaume de Tignonville, Provost of Paris in 1406. It was translated into English by the Antony Wydville, Lord Scales, who had owned the Christine Poems now in the British Museum, and had translated from that very volume another of the books printed by Caxton. Thus, through the press established at Bruges by Louis de Bruges and the Duke of Burgundy, and the interest taken by an English merchant in the many-sided Brugeois Guild of St. John, and its versatile master printer, was the art firmly fixed in England, and Caxton's successors, Wynkyn de Worde, probably a Brugeois workman imported by Caxton from Mansion's office—in charge of the type and presses,—Richard Pynson, William Machlinia, John Day, to use the words of Mr. Bigmore,[1] "have had a glorious roll of followers which has never been broken to this day."

Nor has the continuity of the printed volume with the MS. which preceded it, ever been broken. The first dated book ever printed with type was issued as a variety merely of the written book—the vast revolution in the method of production was studiously concealed in order that the reader might still believe the book to have been executed by the hand of the copyist—though by a very guarded admission allowed to have been produced rather more expeditiously than usual. Fust, at his branch establishment in Paris, sold several, in fact a good many copies of his 1462 Bible as MSS. The impressions being on vellum, and the initial letters illuminated, and many pages containing painted borders, the deception was by no means difficult. More beautiful printing could scarcely be found anywhere than these vellum Bibles; Naudé had carefully examined a particular copy of this very edition, and found it so closely resembling those which had been written in the fifteenth century, that the most discerning might

[1] The Printed Book, 37.

fail to detect the imposition, especially as in such copies both the date and subscription had been designedly omitted. For each of these first copies, Fust received not less than 60 gulden, or golden crowns, or about £400 of modern money, and some were sold at a still higher price. What, by the way, would Mr. Quaritch now ask for a copy of this edition? As the shops and buyers became satisfied, the price rapidly fell down to 40, 30 and finally to 20 crowns, and still the printer made a handsome profit. Meantime purchasers began comparing copies of this marvellous production. Well might the Paris scriveners represent to the authorities that this interloping printer was a necromancer or magician, a limb of Satan, and his books the outcome of his diabolic arts. Very soon the secret was out—the fraud explained, and the arm of the law invoked to deal with what was now seen to be merely an ingenious swindle, and no magic at all. Fust of course absconded without delay, and the new art became the common property of civilization;[1] but it seems to me that I am pursuing side issues to the neglect of my main subject, which is the written and not the printed book. And more particularly the general character of written books, and the way in which they were treated by their producers and owners. I have said that the Mediæval book possessed a greater individuality than the modern one. This was of course mainly the consequence of its uniqueness. In producing a modern book, the chief trouble is in the setting of the types. A thousand copies can be struck off the same setting. In producing two Mediæval books, the same labour was involved over the second copy in every respect as over the first. Every copy was an original autograph of the copyist. Now, the labour and difficulty is in cutting and casting the type, and in setting it up for the press; then the labour and difficulty was spread over the whole work. Hence, in a certain very distinct sense, every written and illuminated book was a unique work. It naturally, therefore, took higher rank than a modern book, however richly got up the latter might be. Even the "Theuerdanck" of the prodigal Emperor Maximilian—a unique copy, or nearly so, of a printed book—is not comparable with the "Hours of Anne of Brittany." The care of Mediæval books was proportionate to their value. Bindings, in the modern sense, were little used, except for working copies of books. Illuminated books were rather apparelled than bound; covers of gold and silver plate, inlaid with chased work, sculptures, and precious gems, were the special attire of sacred or specially valued volumes. In later times, silk and velvet, finished and enriched with silver and gold in bosses, plates and clasps, made appropriate garniture for the rich treasuries of miniature and calligraphic art contained within. An apartment which, first of all, was itself a work of the richest architectural beauty, with its sculptures, and panellings, and stained glass, was but the appropriate receptacle for the jewels it enshrined. The volumes laid on their right sides on the shelves or presses showed their left sides covered with enrichments, or, if placed upon one another, the *front* of the leaves decorated with miniature painting or with embossed and indented ornament. I am now using the Library of Louis de Bruges as my example. The books are chiefly folios of great size, with broad margins of vellum, either lovely in their purity of creamy whiteness, contrasting with the beautiful glossy black of the text, or covered with the glowing splendour of gold and the brilliant jewellery of colours; sometimes a great page covered with

[1] I took the above view from *Greswell*: *Annals of Parisian typography*, 10, and the older writers; and it seems favoured by *Bouchot and Bigmore: The Printed Book*, 22. But Mr. Blades tells me that the story is utterly slanderous, and without foundation in fact.

exquisite paintings of scenes quaintly illustrative of the text; sometimes every margin surrounded by endless varieties of floral ornaments, studded or filigreed with burnished gold. Such personal beauty, one might almost term it, of the book, made the comparison of it to a pleasure garden as spontaneous and natural as it was poetic. The book, as Herrad of Landsperg called her Encyclopædia, was a true "Hortus Deliciarum"— a dream-like garden of delights. You cannot wonder at the Mediæval fancy for calling books by florid titles when you see the prevailing taste for flowers with their sweet varieties of fragrance and colour, for jewels, heraldic symbolism, allegory, and pictorial effect. It was simply a part and parcel of Mediæval life. To those ages a universal history was a posy or gathering of flowers, or a wandering through a pleasure garden, or a mirror—a looking glass in which they could *see* what they wanted to find reflected from the world of Nature, like those old-fashioned glasses, which at the end of a room collected and reduced the whole within the compass of a single glance. No books intended to gratify the taste, or amuse the very brief leisure, of men mainly absorbed in active pursuits, either of the chase or warfare, or constant knightly out-door straining of life and limb, could be imagined more attractive or enticing than such volumes as those I have alluded to. None intended to teach the willing student could be more elaborately tabulated, classified, annotated, or elucidated by picture or diagram, than the treatise on a scientific or moral subject. Indeed classification and analysis *ad nauseam* is the great feature of the scholastic method. A Mediæval Euclid is a surprise to the mere mathematician, for it is a studied work of art. Its diagrams are adorned with elegant cartels, and the simply linear portions are varied with every possible harmony or contrast of colour. The eye is gratified at every turn. A chronology, even, becomes a picture gallery. It is made a Campo Santo of tabulated names, cartels, medallions, portraits and historic miniatures. Indeed, the whole sum of this concentrated effort is due to the conception to which I have already referred, that as a book is meant to be something to comfort, to enlighten, or to delight, so it should be made by every possible means to realize the idea which originally called it into existence. This glance into the earlier condition of books shows us that libraries, as literary and artistic treasure-houses, were much more richly provided by our predecessors for the classes that could appreciate them than, perhaps, we might have expected; but that they were, compared with ours, small and limited to books that, however useful in their contents, were only accessible to the highest culture. The reading class has widened infinitely, and the multitude of books increased in proportion. Libraries are now storehouses both of luxury and profit. The books of which we have spoken, adorned by artists and clothed upon by jewellers and embroiderers, were truly things of beauty. But libraries have passed into another stage. Mere decorative beauty has its value and its locality, but while not ignored, it is not the first consideration, if, indeed, it ever was. A solid claim to economize work now takes the preference over costly ornament. Books before printing might have been, and as we have seen were, indeed, deserving of all the care that was bestowed upon them; but the books of to-day have claims pressed upon us by the search after scientific truth and the onward march of human thought, not for the benefit of our tastes alone, but of the sterner necessities of our whole social existence.

EXAMINATION OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

Questions set at the Examination, April 1888.

I. (*a*) English Literature.

Note.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last two questions.*

1. Who wrote the following works, and about what date:—"Confessio Amantis"; "Vestiges of Creation"; the "Song of the Shirt"; "Stones of Venice"; "Tale of a Tub"; "Hesperides"; "The Strayed Reveller"; "Utopia"; "Frankenstein"; and "The Excursion"?
2. What is meant by the terms "The Lake School"; "The Euphuists"; "Bozzy"; and the "Great Unknown"?
3. What are the principal works of Chaucer, Milton, Dryden, Shelley, Landor, and Matthew Arnold? Give dates where you can.
4. Name the four best essayists, poets, historians and biographers of the last hundred years.
5. Trace briefly the history of literary journals in this country.
6. What is meant by 'Evolution'? and give the names of the chief English exponents of the theory.

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7. Name the leading works of reference for English literary history.
8. Name the chief living American authors.

(*b*) French Literature.

1. Translate into English:—

   "Si le bibliomane est précieux relativement au commerce de la librairie, le bibliophile l'est bien davantage relativement au progrès des sciences et des arts; parce que, ne s'attachant, qu'aux bons ouvrages, il rend necessairement les auteurs plus circonspects, plus difficiles et plus soignés dans leurs productions. Il nous semble donc que le titre de *bibliophile* ne doit appartenir qu'à celui qui aime les livres comme on doit les aimer, et nullement à ceux qu'une aveugle passion égare dans les recherches qu'ils font des ouvrages qui, par une aveugle fantaisie, centuplent quelquefois de valeur."
2. Name the principal writings of Rousseau, Voltaire, Victor Hugo, and Thiers.
3. Who were the *Encyclopédistes?*
4. Give an account of the *Academie Française?*
5. Mention *ten* of the chief living writers of France, naming the works by which they are best known.

II. Classification and Bibliography.

Note.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last two questions.*

1. Catalogue the ten books before you according to the Rules of the Library Association, and classify them under sections and sub-sections.
2. Explain the meaning of: signature, bibliognost, palimpsest, incunabula, the Nuremberg Chronicle, the Great Bible.
3. Give the dates of the first editions of "Hamlet," "Paradise Lost," "Coverdale's Bible," "Tom Jones," "Tristram Shandy," "Pickwick Papers," "Vanity Fair."

4. Whose are the best editions of Swift, Shelley, Piers Plowman, Ben Jonson, Beaumont & Fletcher, Keats, Wordsworth, Voltaire (in French), Cicero (in Latin)?
5. What is a "Dictionary Catalogue?" and mention the best specimens known to you.
6. Give the headings of sections (not less than ten) under which you would classify a collection of works on (1) history, *or* (2) geography and travels [a choice to be made of one or other of these classifications].

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7. Arrange in classified order the names of the chief writers on the history of England during the 19th century.
8. What are the English equivalents for Duacum, Madritum, Lugdunum, Augusta Trevirorum, Leodicum, and the Latin for York, Berlin, Cologne, Lisbon?

III. Library Management.

NOTE.—*First-class candidates only are expected to answer the last five questions.*

1. What are the fittings and appliances required in a public news-room (1) for displaying newspapers (2) for magazines?
2. How would you proceed, in selecting 10,000 volumes, to start a library, comprising both reference and lending departments?
3. Describe accession book and shelf catalogue. What registers are required for recording stock?
4. Lending Library:—How is the library to be secured against loss of books? What forms and registers should you require in connection with the lending of books?
5. What arrangements would you make with borrowers residing outside your own district?
6. What rules should you propose for the reference library?
7. How would you take stock without closing the library?
8. Give a form of monthly report on the work of the library.
9. Sketch a ground plan of a Lending Library of 10,000 volumes, showing arrangement of shelves, counter, desk, &c.
10. Give a list of 10 works of general reference (encyclopædias, dictionaries, &c.) which you would consider most essential in a library of limited extent.

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11. Give a list of 5 daily, 10 weekly, and 20 monthly periodicals and newspapers you would recommend for your news-room (omitting local journals).
12. How should pamphlets be kept for reference before binding?
13. Can you give a time-table of attendance of a staff of six persons in a library comprising (1) Reference Library (2) Lending Library, and (3) News-room?
14. What form of catalogue is best adapted for a lending library?
15. In what way would you bring your recent additions before your readers?

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

MARCH MONTHLY MEETING.

AT the Meeting held on March 2nd, at 53, Berners Street, W., the Treasurer in the Chair, Mr. Cecil Davis read a Paper on "The Wandsworth Public Library."

It was announced that Mr. Tweeney, Librarian, Putney Free Library, had joined the Association; and Mr. Walter T. Cooper was proposed for election.

APRIL MONTHLY MEETING.

AT the Meeting held on April 6th, at Gray's Inn Library, Mr. H. R. Tedder in the Chair, Mr. E. C. Thomas read a Paper on "The Life of Richard De Bury."

Mr. Walter T. Cooper was elected a Member.

A MEETING for the purpose of forming a Local Committee for the reception of the Library Association was held in the Council Hall at Glasgow on the 27th February. The Hon. Sir James King, Lord Provost, was in the Chair, and there was a large attendance. Bailie Colquhoun moved, and Sir Michael Connal seconded, a resolution that the gentlemen present, with power to add to their number, be a Local Committee. This was carried; and Mr. J. Cleland Burns moved, and Mr. David Murray seconded, a resolution, which was also carried, appointing an Executive Committee. Ex-Preceptor Wilson and Professor Young moved and seconded a resolution to appoint the following office-bearers:—*Chairman:* Bailie Colquhoun; *Hon. Treasurers:* Dr. A. B. M'Grigor and Mr. Thomas Mason; *Hon. Secretaries:* Professor Ferguson and Mr. F. T. Barrett.

THE Local Committee have nominated Professor William P. Dickson, D.D., Curator of the University Library, as President of the Library Association for the year.

Library Notes and News.

BELFAST.—Mr. Geo. H. Elliott, Librarian of the Gateshead Public Library, has been appointed Chief Librarian of the new Public Library of Belfast. The number of applications for the post was 160.

COVENTRY.—A subscription has been raised for the purchase of the Mander collection of materials for the history of Coventry, which has reached £100, the sum required being £120.

DARLINGTON.—At the Annual Meeting of the Mechanics Institute on March 16, a proposal was made to hand over the library to the Free Library; the further consideration of the matter was adjourned.

GLASGOW.—The Glasgow Public Libraries Association have collected the opinions of the Mayors and Provosts of the cities and towns in the United Kingdom on the operation of the Libraries Acts, with a view to educate the public opinion of Glasgow.

HAVERFORDWEST.—Mr. T. James, who has been endeavouring to secure the establishment of a Free Library and School of Art has found so little support that he has, for the present, abandoned the effort.

HUCKNALL TORKARD.—The Committee of the Mechanics' Institute have handed over their library of about 250 volumes to the Free Library.

IPSWICH.—The Victoria Free Library has been completed, and will soon be opened. Mr. W. Fenner has been appointed librarian.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN. — The twelfth Annual Meeting of this Library was held on March 26, Lord Brassey in the chair. The income for the year was £837, and there are 35,106 volumes in the library.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—At the meeting of the Camberwell Vestry on March 28, a letter was read from Mr. G. Livesey, offering a site and building for a Free Library in the Old Kent Road. The offer was accepted and a Committee appointed to deal with the matter.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—Lord Cadogan has offered a site for the Library and £350 for books. Sir Charles Dilke has also contributed £350. It is proposed to make a special collection of works and pictures illustrative of the parish.

LONDON: CLAPHAM.—The Local Government Board have sanctioned the adoption of a site at the corner of the Orlando Road for the new Free Library.

LONDON: MARYLEBONE.—Several public meetings have been held in support of the adoption of the Libraries Acts. A requisition has been presented to the Vestry asking for a poll of the ratepayers.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—At a meeting held at the house of Mr. Frank Moss, a committee has been appointed for the purpose of establishing a Free Library by voluntary effort.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE'S.—The St. George's (Hanover Square) Ratepayers' Association are in favour of the adoption of the Libraries Acts in this parish.

LONDON: WEST HAM.—A meeting in support of the free library movement was held in the Town Hall on March 30. A resolution in favour of the Acts was carried by a large majority.

MONK BRETTON.—It has been decided to form a Village Club, which may secure the advantages of a library, the Libraries Acts having recently been rejected.

OLDHAM.—The Libraries and Reading-rooms of the Oldham Industrial Cooperative Society were re-opened after the rebuilding of the premises, on March 17, by the Hon. Lyulph Stanley. The circulating library includes 10,320 volumes, the central and branch reference libraries 2,062 volumes; besides which there are 15 newsrooms.

PUTNEY.—The new premises of the Putney Free Library were opened by a public meeting on April 7. The chairman delivered an address, and a collection of old and curious books was on view.

RAWTENSTALL.—It appears that the books formerly belonging to the old Mechanics' Institution are waiting in a room at the Cemetery until the Acts are adopted. It is said the Cooperative Stores there are also ready to give their books to the ratepayers, if the Acts are adopted.

ROTHERHAM.—The new Free Library was opened on March 17. The alterations have been made at a cost of £800, which has been defrayed out of accumulations of income. New volumes to the number of 2,500 have been added, and the library now has 10,000 volumes.

SALFORD.—The poll of the ratepayers on the question whether the Free Libraries shall be opened on Sundays was taken on April 7th, when the votes were: For opening, 3,445; against, 3,162—being a majority of 283 in favour of opening.

STALYBRIDGE.—A poll was taken on March 22 on the question of adopting the Libraries Acts. The votes were: For, 757; and against, 366—majority for 399. There are about 6,000 ratepayers. About £2,000 has been subscribed.

SWANSEA.—The Swansea Town Council have passed a resolution that the annual expenditure in connexion with the Free Library be reduced, so as to keep within the penny rate. The income available for library purposes, after making provision for the charges upon the buildings, is only about £300 a year.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—The result of the poll on the question of adopting the Libraries Acts was announced on March 12. The numbers were: For, 567; against, 1,570—majority against, 1,003.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Birmingham. Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Free Libraries Committee on the year 1887. 8vo, pp. 46.

During the past year the work of all the libraries has gone on steadily and satisfactorily. The issue of books in the various departments and the use of the news rooms have continued to increase. The reference library contains 94,650 vols., of which number 22,117 are gifts; and the five lending libraries contain 58,004 vols. The year's issues reached 913,924 vols. (against 863,027 in 1886)—of which 404,552 were in the reference library and 509,372 from the lending libraries. The Sunday issues averaged 518 vols., against 598 in 1884—the decrease being due to the removal of the Art Gallery. Referring to the visit of the Library Association, the committee express their "great satisfaction in recording that the arrangements made gave unqualified satisfaction to all the members of the Association" —a statement which we heartily endorse. "The papers were of great excellence and practical interest." The library rate realized £9,186.

Liverpool. Thirty-fifth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Library, Museum, and Walker Art Gallery. 8vo, pp. 38.

The electric lighting of the reference library was abandoned, principally on the score of expense. Sugg's improvement in gas lighting was substituted, with satisfaction as regards cost, lighting, and ventilation. The total number of volumes in the library was 91,075 vols., of which number 2,404 were added during the year; and the issues 752,542 vols. (being a daily average of 2,766 vols.)—of which number 372,285 vols. were in prose fiction, and 179,131 of miscellaneous literature. The two lending libraries consist of 23,000 vols. each, and the circulation is 203,200 and 202,071 vols. respectively. There are 8,855 borrowers on the books—nearly equally divided between the two libraries. The five branch evening reading rooms had an aggregate attendance of 106,264, or an evening average of 354—varying from 92 to 46. Forty free lectures were delivered, the average attendance being 1,246. The museum was daily attended by 1,188 persons, against 1,688 in 1886. The daily average attendance at the Walker Art Gallery was 1,427.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Sixth Report of the Public Libraries Committee, 1886-7. 1887, 8vo, pp. 27.

These libraries comprise 58,162 vols., of which number 29,251 vols. are in the lending library and 28,911 in the reference library, of which total 1,956 were added during the year. The total issues were—from the lending library, 194,742 vols. (being a decrease of 32,124 on the previous year), and from the reference library, 45,661, being an increase on the issues of the preceding year, of 7,512 vols. The reason of this falling off is satisfactorily explained. 164 vols. of books for the blind were added, and a catalogue printed. "These books are in considerable demand, and are well preserved by readers." A supplementary catalogue of the Central Lending Library was issued, and there was a demand for a new edition of the "Juvenile Catalogue." The attendances in the news rooms reached 627,091, being a daily average attendance of 2,097—a slight decrease on that of 1885-6. The Sunday daily average attendance was 677. The library rate realized £4,053.

Salford. Thirty-ninth Annual Report of the Museum, Libraries, and Parks Committee, 1887. 8vo, pp. 29.

During the year there were 304,270 attendances at the museum, and 617,419 at the news-rooms. There were 335,205 vols. issued in the reference library, and 203,803 were borrowed from the four lending libraries. "The books for the blind continue to be well used." The roofs and the galleries have been repaired and repainted at considerable expense. Miss Frost is engaged in cataloguing the reference library.

Preston. Ninth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library and Museum . . . for . . . 1887. 8vo, pp. 19.

This library now consists of 15,002 volumes—921 of which were added during 1887. The annual circulation was 103,095 vols., being a daily average of 356. During the year 1,008 persons were admitted to membership. The news-room is well supplied with periodical literature. The daily average attendance at the museum was 59. The expenditure for the library was £908, for the museum £154, and for the observatory £3 15s. 5d.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Enemies of Books. By William Blades. Revised and enlarged by the Author. London: Elliot Stock, 1888. 8vo, pp. xv. 165. Price 4s. 6d.

In 1879 was published at Lyons in a limited impression a pretty little book called "Les Ennemis des Livres: par un Bibliophile." (8vo, pp. 64.) We do not know if Mr. Blades ever heard of this little tract; but in 1880 was issued the first edition of his own book, very pleasantly written and illustrated, and still likely to be preferred by collectors to the present issue, which has lost somewhat of its character by being forced into the livery of a series. There is, however, some additional matter, and fresh illustrations are supplied.

Ballads of Books. Edited by Andrew Lang. London: Longmans, 1888. 8vo, pp. xx. 157. Price 6s.

This very daintily printed little volume is a re-cast of the book of the same name published in America by Mr. Brander Matthews. A very large proportion of the poems here printed are by contemporary versifiers. Mr. Lang may be right in saying that "few very great poets have written like bibliophiles"—in the narrower sense of that term; but we think that an editor who had visited the 'untrodden ways' of bibliography might have gathered a more abundant harvest.

Regole per il Catalogo alfabetico a schede della Biblioteca Universitaria di Breslavia compilate dal D^e^ Carlo Dziatzko...versione dal tedesco con aggiunte e correzioni dell' autore a cura di Angelo Bruschi. Firenze: Sansoni, 1887. 8vo, pp. vii.*111. Price L.5.

The first publication in the new Italian *Biblioteca di Bibliografia e Paleografia* was this translation of Prof. Dziatzko's Cataloguing Rules, of which we hope shortly to present an extended notice by Dr. Garnett.

In the "Baptist Hand-book for 1888" (pp. 127-132), Dr. Joseph Angus gives a short but useful note on "Baptist Authors and History, 1548-1700."

We have received the prospectus of a work to be entitled "Annals of Scottish Printing from the introduction of the art in 1507 to the beginning of the seventeenth century; by Robert Dickson and John Philip Edmond." The work will form a quarto volume of about five hundred pages, printed on hand-made paper, and profusely illustrated with *facsimiles*. The issue will be limited to 500 copies at £2 2s., and 100 large paper copies at £4 4s.

F. Eyssenhardt has issued another part of his interesting *Mittheilungen aus der Stadtbibliothek zu Hamburg*, in which are continued the notices of Hamburg in the last century from the MSS. of an Englishman.

The January number of the *Harvard University Bulletin* continues the calendar of the "Carlyle Collection" and the "Sparks Manuscripts," and Mr. Lane's useful "Index to Reference Lists."

The December number of Prof. Melvil Dewey's *Library Notes* (received March 26th) exhibits the mechanical side of librarianship, and the very multiplicity of its practical suggestions makes it difficult to notice in a few words. The number contains, however, a long article by Mr. W. E. Foster on "A Library's Maximum of Usefulness." There is also an interesting paper on "The Columbia College School of Library Economy from a Student's standpoint," by Mary Plummer.

The March number of the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* contains an article by Mr. Henry Harrisse on "Christoph Columbus im Orient." The double number for April and May contains articles on the earliest and the latest Paper by the editor, on Guillaume Fichet's now famous letter by Dr. Pfaff, and a long and useful "Inventaire sommaire des Périodiques historiques en langue française," by Henri Stein. The *Centralblatt* is certainly the cheapest library periodical published, and should be well supported.

A new library journal has been started in Italy—the *Revista delle Biblioteche*, edited by Dr. Biagi. It begins with a double number—it is curious how library journals tend to appear in double numbers—in which the editor writes on "Examinations for Librarians," and A. Bruschi gives an account of Prof. Dziatzko's paper at our last London meeting on "Libraries and Librarianship in Germany." We hope the new journal may have a long and useful career.

Mr. Alfred W. Pollard contributes to the *Century Guild Hobby Horse* for April an interesting paper "On some old Title-pages, with a sketch of their origin, and some suggestions for the improvement of modern ones." In the same number Dr. Garnett has a sonnet "On revisiting Lichfield Cathedral," dated "September 23, 1887."

We observe that in the three last numbers of *The Bookworm* no less than SEVEN articles are simply reprinted from such well-known and recent books as Mr. Lang's *The Library* and Mr. Henry Stevens's book on Lenox. In the last number four whole pages of *The Bookworm* are thus taken up. Not content with this wholesale appropriation, the editor adds insult to injury by *correcting* (!) Mr. Stevens's spelling of *Lenox* to LENNOX throughout the article; and this is what Mr. Elliot Stock and his "merry men" call Bibliography!!

Mr. E. M. Borrajo sends us a copy of the following hand-bill, which, he thinks, may amuse our readers:—"Books wanted.—H. H. Hartley, second-hand bookseller, 81, Park Street, Camden Town, will give good prices for copies of the following books:—'The Art of Turning,' by Handle; 'John Knox on Death's Door;' 'Malthus' Attack on Infantry;' 'Macadam's Views in Rhodes;' 'Pygmalion,' by Lord Bacon; 'Memoirs of Mrs. Mountain,' by Ben Lomond;' 'Boyle on Steam;' 'Lamb's Recollections of Suet;' 'Peel on our Pavements;' 'Johnson's Contradictionary;' 'Freeman on enclosing Waste Lands;' 'Dr. Kitchener's Life of Captain Cook;' 'Mr. J. Horner on Poet's Corner;' 'A Pinch of Snuff,' by Dean Snift; 'Ode to Cologne,' by U. Smellie; and 'The Corn Question,' by John Bunyan."

Correspondence.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

In reference to Mr. Butler Wood's letter in our last issue, we have received from Mr. Maclauchlan, Chief Librarian of the Dundee Free Library, a printed circular on the "Book-Disinfector used in the Dundee Free Library," illustrated by diagrams of the apparatus employed, which consists of a sort of closed cupboard made of ordinary tinplate with a lid at the top, a wire shelf half-way up, and a little door at the foot. "By an arrangement with the sanitary inspector, all cases of infectious diseases are immediately reported to the library, and a notice is at once sent forbidding readers residing in such houses to return books until these houses are certified free of disease. When the books are returned, the lid of the apparatus is opened, and the books placed on their edges, with the leaves opened out as much as possible, on the wire shelf. The lid is closed, and a sulphur pastille is lit and put in at the little door on the tray. In a few minutes the sulphurous fumes penetrate between the leaves, effectually destroying germs of disease, if such exist. The apparatus costs very little, the cost of disinfection is trifling, and the operation exceedingly simple. This system of disinfection was adopted in consequence of strong representations from medical men, but I feel compelled to add that during twenty-seven years' experience in a public library, I never knew or heard of disease being communicated by books to readers, or even to the assistants, who are constantly handling the books and breathing the air of the rooms in which they are placed."

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The Library Chronicle.

TOWN LIBRARIES AND SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.[1]

By Frank Pacy, Librarian, Richmond (Surrey) Free Public Library.

We are all agreed as to the desirability of extending the advantages of the public library system to the smaller communities, and it will be remembered that Papers were read to us by Mr. Campbell in 1879, on "The Grouping of populous places for library purposes," by Mr. Wright last year on "Municipal Libraries and suburban districts," and that the whole question was dealt with in the first Borrajo Prize Essay. There is undoubtedly an unanimous opinion as to the soundness of the principle; where we differ is as to the best means of carrying it out. I was both surprised and disappointed that Mr. Wright's resolution, with respect to individual subscriptions, in the form of a recommendation to the Parliamentary Committee of the Council, was carried with one dissentient only (myself), and that absolutely without discussion. A protest was afterwards made against the way in which the matter was rushed through. I cannot but think that the proposal was, and is worth more serious consideration than it then received, and for that reason I venture to ask you to allow me to place my views on the whole subject before you, with a view of retracing our steps, if possible, from a path which will I fear prove one of embarrassment and danger.

The recommendation adopted was as follows:—

> "That the use of Free Public Libraries be extended to residents beyond the rating area, on payment by them of a subscription equivalent to the rate imposed by the Act."

Since this resolution was carried, the Leamington Free Public Library Committee have decided to admit outside subscribers to the privileges of the Lending Department. At Doncaster and Worcester also, I see by the Annual Reports of the Free Libraries, they have for some time past received subscriptions in this way. In the Doncaster Library, these subscriptions realised last year the magnificent sum of £12. 2*s.* 6*d.* At Worcester the first year's working of the system resulted in the receipt of £12., and at

[1] Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association at Birmingham, September, 1887. After the discussion on this Paper, the following motion was agreed to:—

> "That the resolution passed last year with respect to receiving in Free Libraries individual subscriptions from residents outside the rating area is in direct opposition to the spirit of the Public Libraries Acts, and is hereby rescinded."

the present time about £5. is annually received. Comment on these figures is needless! I do not know whether the library authorities mentioned had previously taken the advice of Counsel, but it seems to me that under the present Acts their action is illegal; if this is not the case, the recommendation agreed to last September was quite unnecessary.

It may be that there are others who are transgressing in like manner, but the instances I have named are the only ones of which I have knowledge. I would ask—are the members of this Association, who hold appointments as public librarians, practically unanimous in favour of incorporating with the Free Libraries subscription departments for the use of middle class readers? The proposal made is simply one which, if carried into effect, would offer advantages to those who can afford to pay for them, to the exclusion of the poorer inhabitants of a township who, although legally regarded as ratepayers, in the large majority of cases would not, as compound householders whose rates are paid by the landlord, in reality pay any library rate at all in the event of the Acts being adopted. Apart from this, I am sure many of us are averse to the principle of subscription. If our libraries are to be free, by all means let us be consistent and keep them free, not in name only but actually so to all classes without distinction. The little knowlege I have as to the working of a subscription system in connection with a public library is not so satisfactory that I should care to adopt it in connection with my own library, and I believe, in many cases where it is in use as an entirely separate department, it is regarded at the best in the light of a necessary evil. Those who subscribe often, and very unreasonably, expect concessions and privileges which the Library Committee or Librarian, if they do their duty, refuse to concede, and hence the officials are continually involved in unpleasant argument and contention. I am open to be convinced, by those who have had more experience than myself, that the advantages of such a department justify its adoption as a distinct appendage to the Free Library. Should the legality of the system advocated in the resolution of last year be established, I feel confident it would be the means of throwing great temptation in the way of the authorities of libraries languishing under poverty and debt. I have often been asked, and so no doubt have many here present, if we could allow books in the Reference Department to be borrowed for home reading upon payment of an annual subscription of, say one or two guineas. One gentleman, with a supreme contempt for all legal impediment, even suggested the advisability of my committee considering the question of commencing an undertaking similar in every respect to those of large subscription libraries, of allowing 10, 20 or 30 volumes to be taken away at one time, according to the amount annually subscribed. I am afraid the Committee of any small Free Library, inaugurating such a scheme, would find themselves objects of public opprobrium, and I am sure they would run a great risk of ultimately winding-up their affairs in the Bankruptcy Court. If this principle is recognised, in all probability Library Committees will, in many cases, be induced to stretch a point and offer special facilities with a view to inducing subscribers to come forward in large numbers. If they should act in this manner, they will be depriving the poorer readers of their rights, and we who ought to be its strongest supporters will by retaining the resolution passed last year be striking a fatal blow at the very foundation of the Free Library system. The present absence of all favouritism is the reason of the healthy vitality and the widely increasing success of the movement. Once let the working-man know that his wealthier neighbour can bribe successfully for greater privi-

leges, you will find him absent himself altogether from our libraries, and he will have a reasonable objection more fatal to the adoption of the Acts than any yet adduced.

Another by no means unimportant feature lies in the fact that you will place yourselves in competition with the proprietors of the different booksellers' and other circulating libraries, and by depriving them of their best subscribers, who, by the way, are precisely the persons not needing the concessions you purpose making to them, you will raise up in that quarter a bitter feeling of antagonism to the work we are doing. Our legitimate objects are to lend books free of any charge whatsoever, and to build up good libraries of reference, taking care that they contain works for the use of the more advanced readers and students, who would not find such books upon the shelves of an ordinary private subscription library.

The first proposition in Mr. Wright's Paper, printed in the double number of the LIBRARY CHRONICLE for March and April of this year, is one which should be more fully discussed with the hope of doing some practical good. I will here quote it:—"That the Local Government Board [the local authority], taking advantage of the Acts, which expressly provide for such a contingency, should levy an extra rate upon all the residents within their district, the proceeds of which should be handed over to the Central Library Authority, who in return should form a branch library in the district; and that, by this arrangement, all residents in that district should be placed upon the same footing as those ratepayers and others within the borough, subject, of course, to the usual regulations and restrictions." Mr. Wright goes on to say: "This, I believe, would not involve any vote or poll of the ratepayers for its adoption." I cannot follow him here! In the Amendment Act of 1866 (29 and 30 Vict. *cap.* 114, s. 4) it is distinctly stated—"Any parish, of whatever population, adjoining any borough, district, or parish . . . *may with the consent of more than one-half of the ratepayers* thereof present at a meeting, and with the consent also of the Town Council of such borough, or the board of such district, or the commissioners of such parish, as the case may be, determine that such adjoining parish shall, for the purposes of the said Act, form part of such borough, district, or parish . . ." By this it is plain that no rate can be levied in any parish until the Acts have been adopted by the ratepayers. The Acts as they now stand are quite comprehensive enough to deal with the matter as far as *adjoining* townships are concerned, and if ever the new Libraries Bill passes through Parliament, which may be the case before the end of this century, in all probability the same opportunities will be offered to other parishes surrounding, but not actually touching the central town which may possess a Free Library. What we require is that all the parishes in a Union should be allowed to join in one scheme. The short Amendment Act, which passed the House of Commons last session, relating principally to the Metropolis, includes the parishes in any Metropolitan district, an especially suitable definition of the area which may be judiciously and effectually comprised in one working system.

I think the majority of the Committees of Libraries now established are willing, where circumstances permit, to receive the smaller townships as sharers in the benefits of their respective libraries and it will pay them to do so, however little the penny-rate may produce. If the rate yields no more than £40 or £50, the population being small, the number of borrowers from the Lending Department would be limited, and so no loss would be incurred on account of the little extra work and wear and tear on the books, especially as, under existing conditions, both the Reference and News-room

Departments are free to all comers, whether parishioners or not. Supposing the rate to produce from £100 to £150 per annum, then the inhabitants of the joining township might reasonably ask that a small branch library should be opened for at least a few hours daily, and as the population and, consequently, the rate contribution increased, the branch work could be extended in proportion. What we really want to do is in some way to place credible facts before the ratepayers of the small parishes which would prove to them that, by joining with their neighbours, they would reap considerable benefits. It is not necessary that I should enumerate these benefits in addressing an audience composed principally of librarians.

Where the income from all sources would not reach £300, it would, in most cases, be much better that a new library should be formed in conjunction with a neighbouring town. By this means double the amount of good work could be accomplished, than by establishing two miserably poor institutions, which would have only the prospect of an impoverished and feeble existence, and would be dependent, to a great extent, upon charity for the necessary funds to carry on their work. At present the great difficulty in the way of bringing about this amalgamation of interests, is the existence of the natural desire of each local authority to manage alone its own affairs, but if the successful results of co-operation, and above all the fact that they would be adequately represented on the governing body of the library, could be made manifest, I believe we should soon hear of many of these smaller parishes being eager to join with those where libraries have been established.

The Council, by accepting this Paper, have afforded us the opportunity of discussing the question of subscriptions. I am not aware of any standing order which would prohibit our re-considering and, if thought desirable, taking another vote upon the subject, and I have given notice of a motion for rescinding the resolution agreed to last year. I do not think I have taken too strong a view of the importance of the matter and I await with interest the discussion, if any should arise, on my few remarks. In conclusion, let me apologize for the perfunctory manner in which I have written upon a subject so important.

NOTE: Since this Paper was written, Mr. Bradlaugh, in the House of Commons, on the 13th September, 1887, asked the Attorney-General whether, under the "Public Libraries Act, 1855," the Warrington Library and Museum Committee were justified in requiring and receiving subscriptions from persons borrowing books from the Warrington Free Library, which library was supported from the rates; and whether the Library Committee were legally justified in according privileges to subscribers in respect of the loan of books from the Free Library, which privileges were not accorded to ratepayers who did not pay special subscriptions.

The *Attorney-General* said that, so far as the Public Libraries Acts were concerned, it did not entitle the Committee to make any distinction between persons who subscribed and persons who did not subscribe. He was not prepared, however, to say that, under Section 21, a rule might not be made by which the Committee could require a reasonable deposit to ensure the return of the books.

This reading of the Acts by the Attorney-General is confirmatory of my opinion as to the illegality of receiving subscriptions in Free Public Libraries.

BIRMINGHAM AND LITERATURE[1]

By W. Downing.

It is the custom with many to regard the past history of Birmingham as exclusively devoted to a record of manufacturing, and inventive, triumphs; and as dealing rather with hardware goods, than with books and literature; but I trust in the short paper which I have brought for your kind consideration to-day, to show, that in spite of appearances Birmingham has numbered among its sons, and its adopted children, not a few, whose names are inscribed on the roll of English men of letters, and that it has taken some part at least in the literary history of the nation.

Until the middle of the 17th century Birmingham was but a small country town, with little to distinguish it from many others which have stood still, and are now what Birmingham was in the Civil War times.

Leland, the Antiquary, visited it in the time of Henry VIII.; and he gives a quaintly picturesque description of it in his *Itinerary*. Camden visited it in Queen Elizabeth's reign, and he also describes it in his *Britannia* "as swarming with inhabitants, and echoing with the noise of anvils." But the first separate publication about Birmingham had its rise in the Civil War troubles, when the king passed near to Birmingham, and was despoiled of his carriages and other valuables in 1642. A pamphlet of eight pages published in that year professes to give a "True relation of the circumstances." I regret to say that a copy of this very rare publication perished in the fire at the Reference Library eight years ago; and the only other copy, with which I am acquainted, is in the British Museum. The next year, 1643, a battle was fought in the streets of Birmingham, between the townsmen and Prince Rupert's forces; and three descriptions of this occurrence were printed in the same year:—(1) *The True Relation*, by R. Porter, a sword cutler, of Birmingham; (2) "The letter written from Walsall, by a worthy gentleman to his friend at Oxford concerning Birmingham," and (3) "Prince Rupert's Burning Love to England, discovered in Birmingham flames." All these tracts were printed in London, for there was not as yet a printing press in Birmingham; indeed, you will remember that Macaulay tells us in his history, that as late as 1685 the town did not contain a single regular shop, where a bible, or an almanack could be bought. On market days a bookseller named Michael Johnson, (the father of the great Samuel Johnson), came over from Lichfield, and opened a stall for a few hours, this supply being found equal to the demand. Knowing as we do that Samuel Johnson occasionally accompanied his father on his market journeys, and sometimes took his father's place as stall-keeper, it is very probable that he visited Birmingham in this capacity early in the 18th century; certain it is, that soon after the setting up of the first press in the town, he came here on a visit to his friend Edmund Hector, a surgeon, who then lodged and boarded with the first Birmingham bookseller.

Nothing of more than local interest had yet been printed in the town. The first publication was a pamphlet, with probably the longest title on record, having reference to the Sacheverell disturbances, and the controversy respecting the use of the bidding prayer; it was printed in 1716, by Mathew Unwins. It is generally known by the short title, *A Loyal Oration*, the rest of the title being far too long to quote in a paper of twenty minutes' duration.

[1] Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association at Birmingham, September, 1887.

Mr. Warren, Hector's landlord, was, as I have said, the first established bookseller in the town, and has the honour of having issued the first local newspaper, and the first literary work of the Leviathan of literature, Dr. Samuel Johnson. The newspaper, of which only a single number is known to exist, was called *The Birmingham Journal*, and to this journal, according to Boswell, Johnson contributed a number of periodical essays, the predecessors of the Idler and Rambler essays. Warren took considerable interest in Johnson, and from conversations with him about "A Voyage to Abyssinia," written by Father Lobo, a Spanish Jesuit, he pressed the young scholar to undertake a translation and abridgment of it. This was done by Johnson in Birmingham and, as Boswell tells us, the constitutional indolence of Johnson led to some difficulties about its completion, and the latter part of the work was done by him whilst lying in bed, with the heavy quarto volume before him, he dictating the translation to Hector, who sat beside him, and wrote it down. The work was printed by a man named Osborne, who was Warren's printer, but as the imprint of Birmingham would not have ensured it a very favourable reception, it was published with a London name on the title page in 1735. So that Birmingham has the honour, even though it did not get the credit, of having produced Dr. Johnson's first literary work. Johnson visited Birmingham several times in later years, and found his friend Hector in greater dignity, occupying one of the fine old mansions erected in George I's time in the old square. This house, which was in later years distinguished by a memorial stone placed on it by our Shakespeare Club, was taken down to make way for Corporation Street, and the old panelling of the Johnson room has been used in fitting up the Johnson Memorial Room at Aston Hall, in which is placed the memorial stone from the old house, some early editions of Johnson's works, and some scarce portraits.

Before Johnson paid his second visit to Birmingham, the town had become famous among book-lovers from the issue of Baskerville's magnificent editions of the Classics and of some celebrated English authors of the 18th century, which, as Macaulay says, "went forth to astonish all the librarians of Europe." John Baskerville had been a grave-stone cutter; and a signboard in slate, in the possession of Mr. Sam. Timmins, shows great beauty in the formation of the letters, and gives early evidence of Baskerville's skill in this department. His first publication was the beautiful quarto edition of *Virgil*, in 1757, which Dibdin praises "as one of the most finished specimens of typography." The success of this publication led to the production in the following year of the edition of Milton in two volumes, octavo; a quarto edition followed speedily, and then came the appointment of Baskerville as printer to the University of Cambridge for ten years, which led to the production of the beautiful edition of the Book of Common Prayer, and the noble folio Bible of 1763. Perhaps his three finest works were those issued in 1761, namely: the quarto *Juvenal*, the three-volume edition of *Congreve* and the *Addison* in four volumes, quarto. The other volumes in the splendid series of quarto Classics followed at intervals, together with many other productions of greater or less importance which time forbids me to enumerate.

It is not a pleasant reflection that, had our famous printer depended upon his press for subsistence, he would have ended his career in poverty, and that his types were hawked over Europe in quest of a bidder, and were ultimately allowed to pass out of the country. I think you will agree with the remarks of Mr. Sam. Timmins, that there are few nobler chapters in our local history than those which record how, a century ago, in a material and commercial age, John Baskerville made our town famous throughout

the civilized world for the production of the best and greatest works of man, in a style which has rarely been equalled, and even now has never been surpassed.

About the time that Baskerville was issuing his last publication—the grand folio anatomical work of Dr. William Hunter—a Birmingham bookseller, who had passed his fiftieth year, was making preparations for his first work, the forerunner of a long line of pleasant, gossiping books, which are not yet forgotten by the lovers of the curious. This book was William Hutton's quaint and gossiping *History of Birmingham*, which was published in 1782, and was the first history of our town. I need only remind you of his curious little books which describe his trips to Blackpool, Coatham, London, and other places; of his history of Derby; his *Battle of Bosworth Field*, and his description of the Roman wall, to give you some idea of the energy which Hutton devoted to his literary task, at a time of life when most men think of laying down the pen.

There is one very curious and rare little volume printed by Baskerville, which recalls another of our literary worthies of this period, namely *The Political Songster*, by John Free, whose real name was John Freeth. He was a local publican, whose "Hobby-Horse," as he says, was "to write songs upon the occurrence of remarkable events."

Freeth was not in any great sense a poet; his muse, as Mr. Dent says in his *Old and New Birmingham*, "could work to order, whenever the events of the time required a stirring ballad, fitted to a popular tune, which the people could sing." He was a lover of freedom, and did good service in a humble way; he published several volumes of songs, of one of which, singularly enough, only a sixth edition ever appeared. I do not think anyone has ever seen an earlier one, and I am not alone in thinking that this was a sly device of Freeth's to lend importance to the book. Contemporary with Freeth, was another local poet of a far higher order, the author of that exquisite poem *To-morrow*, which the editor of *The Golden Treasury* extolled as a "truly noble poem exhibiting a rare excellence—the climax of simple sublimity." John Collins, who appears in his published volume only as Collins, had been somewhat notable as an actor in Ireland; he came to Birmingham about 1793. His only book was published in 1804, and was entitled *Collins's Scripscrapologia*, or *Doggrel Dish of All Sorts*. It contains several very fine poems, besides the one eulogised by Mr. Palgrave, one of the best being *To be or not to be*. He once wrote a monologue entertainment, which he gave at the Birmingham Theatre Royal, entitled *The Brush*, and many of the songs included in it were afterwards published in the volume I have mentioned. It may interest some to know that the original manuscript of *The Brush* is in the possession of Mr. Sam. Timmins.

Yet another local poet, known outside the limits of our town, from his friendship with Lamb and Coleridge was the gentle lovable Charles Lloyd, who flourished contemporary with Collins. Lloyd lives chiefly, however, in the writings of his friends, and is frequently mentioned in Charles Lamb's Correspondence, and in some of his verses. He published, in conjunction with Lamb, a thin volume of poems entitled *Blank Verse*, in 1798, and he had previously issued two other small volumes of poems on various subjects. He was honoured by being pilloried along with his more distinguished friends in the *Anti-Jacobin Poems*, as well as in Lord Byron's *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*. He was visited on several occasions at his pleasant home in Broad Street, where now the Prince of Wales' Theatre and Bingley Hall stand, by Charles Lamb, who is thus brought as it were into some sort of connection with

Birmingham; and thus maintained for a time, to some extent, the literary character of our town, which had been gained by the meetings of the famous Lunar Club at Soho; where Dr. Darwin, Richard Lovell Edgeworth, and Samuel Parr, Sir Joseph Banks, Sir William Herschel and other shining lights of literature frequently foregathered. Joseph Berington too, was of this goodly company: the ecclesiastic, whose tall and majestic figure, lofty bearing, and polished manners, made such an impression on the mind of Mary Ann Schimmelpennick as she tells us in her Memoirs. Berington was the priest at Oscott towards the close of the 18th century and issued from the Birmingham Press, his Abeillard and Heloise, and his History of the Reign of Henry II.; Memoirs of Panzani, and other works; he wrote here also his Literary History of the Middle Ages.

Nor should the name of Joseph Priestley be omitted from the list of Birmingham authors. He came here as Pastor of the "New Meeting" in 1780, and remained until the ever regrettable Riots of 1791. This is not the place to enlarge on his great discoveries in science, or his contributions to polemical literature, but we may venture to recall his philosophical writings such as the Essay on the Human Mind, the Disquisition on Matter and Spirit, his lectures on History and General Policy, and his miscellaneous writings on language, on oratory and criticism, &c. And on these we may claim him as a Birmingham Man of Letters. The town has done honour to his memory of later years, and in no way more worthily than by the beautiful statue of him by Williamson, which occupies one of the finest and most conspicuous sites in the town.

And in our times Birmingham still holds her own place in the literary world by many distinguished men of letters who have lived among us, or have been in other ways associated with our town. I may first mention the names of Robert Alfred Vaughan (the author of *Hours with the Mystics*) and of many essays on ecclesiastical biography and history, which were written almost before he was out of his teens, and which have won high praise from such an authority as Sir James Stephens, of George Dawson, and of Harriet Martineau, who lies buried in the old cemetery of Birmingham, and who, together with another gifted member of the same family, are closely related to his worship the Mayor of Birmingham, Sir Thomas Martineau. I may also remind you of the great interest felt by Charles Dickens in the welfare of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, which caused him to give his first public readings here, on its behalf, and afterwards to deliver one of his finest speeches as an inaugural address of the session of 1868. And I think I might say that a very valuable volume of Addresses delivered at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, by Dean Stanley, Charles Kingsley, Professor Tyndall, Russell Lowell, and by many other distinguished men, might be published, which would show how closely Modern Birmingham has been associated with Literature. I might also mention many honourable names of men and women who are still living among us, and who have won fame by their writings; but it would not become me to speak of them in this place. And even without mention of the local authors of to-day, I feel that Birmingham may rest her claim to a place in the Literary History of our own country, on those records which I have briefly, and so imperfectly, brought before you in this Paper.

OBITUARY NOTICE OF MR. G. W. PORTER.[1]

By RICHARD GARNETT, LL.D.

IN the late George William Porter, Esq., the British Museum has lost a diligent and conscientious officer, and the Library Association a member who, if not taking an active part in its proceedings, was warmly interested in its welfare.

Mr. Porter's family were connected with the county of Cumberland, and he was born in London, March 24th, 1827. He was educated at Merchant Taylors' School, and was afterwards for a time at King's College. He was appointed a supernumerary assistant in the library of the British Museum on his nineteenth birthday, March 24th, 1846; and, with the other gentlemen of his standing, became a permanent assistant in 1851. He was for several years employed principally in the preparation of the new catalogue, a portion of which was finally revised by him. Having mastered the Scandinavian languages, and acquired some knowledge of Russian, he frequently catalogued books in those tongues, and occasionally acted for the Superintendent of the Reading Room. In 1870, upon Mr. Rye's promotion to be Keeper of the Printed Books, Mr. Porter succeeded him as one of the Assistant Keepers, and approved himself a zealous and useful assistant both to Mr. Rye and his successor, Mr. Bullen. From this time forward, about half of the new publications in foreign languages required for the Museum were selected by him, and he transmitted the orders for the whole. One of his principal occupations was to keep up the Reading Room catalogue, and provide for the addition of continuations to the Reference Library, and the exchange of obsolete books for others better adapted to the requirements of the public. Having, in 1875, become Senior Assistant Keeper by the retirement of Mr. Rye, he usually took charge of the department during the Keeper's vacations, and went through a great amount of official labour in the preparation of returns and reports. After Mr. Bond's accession to the Principal Librarianship, he executed two of the many important improvements initiated by that gentleman, the selection of bibliographies to be placed on the ground floor of the Reading Room, and of a second library of reference in the gallery, for which room was made by the removal of a portion of the periodicals. Catalogues of both these collections were drawn up by him with great care and accuracy, and are now on sale at the Museum. He was about to undertake a third edition of the original Reading Room catalogue, and an improved selection of books for the Reference Library, when, early in November, he was attacked by pneumonia, which occasioned his death on November 11. He was interred at Hampstead. As a librarian, Mr. Porter's most marked characteristic was sedulous industry; he was not prone to new undertakings, or receptive of new ideas, but spared no labour in performing whatever duty might be imposed upon him. As a man he was characterised by genuine kindness of heart, though his strict attention to discipline occasionally subjected him to misconstruction. He supported the Library Association from the first, and spoke several times at the London Congress of 1877; but his engagements and his residence at a considerable distance from town prevented his attendance at other meetings.

[1] Read at the January Monthly Meeting of the Library Association.

SOME RECENT BOOKS.[1]

It is understood that our greatly lamented member, Mr. Henry Stevens, left a number of books in various stages of preparation. One of these was the beautifully printed volume now before us, and Mr. Stevens' materials have been edited by Mr. C. H. Coote, of the British Museum. Johann Schöner, the celebrated sixteenth-century geographer, is famous for his terrestrial globes. In 1523 he published in Latin an account of the "Islands and Countries which have been recently discovered," of which only three copies are known. Mr. Stevens surmised that this pamphlet was accompanied by a globe, though no copy was known; and in 1885 was fortunate enough to identify a globe which unexpectedly turned up as the desiderated globe of Schöner. It is of great interest as, in Mr. Stevens' words, "one of the keys to unlock the many mysteries of early American geography." The twelve zones of this globe are here reproduced in facsimile, and accompanied by a facsimile and translation of the original pamphlet with other illustrative matter. Mr. Coote has added an introduction, giving an account of early globes and an account of Schöner, together with a careful bibliography of his writings. The book is not only a work of art, but an indispensable document in the history of geographical discovery.

Professor Morley has resolved to devote the rest of his working life to a reconstruction of his "English Writers," and its continuation. The first two volumes include the writers before the Conquest, and though no doubt specialists may find them a little weak on the philological side, they will be found useful enough by the ordinary student, and obviously the whole of our enormous literature forms too vast a subject for its historian to be a specialist in every part of it. Prof. Morley has appended a bibliography to each volume. The work will, of course, be a necessity in every library.

Dr. Henry Lansdell has issued a popular edition of his larger work on "Russian Central Asia," consisting chiefly of the personal narrative, omitting whole chapters and

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[1] Johann Schöner, Professor of Mathematics at Nuremberg. A reproduction of his Globe of 1523, long lost his dedicatory letter . . . with new translations and notes of the Globe, by Henry Stevens of Vermont. Edited with an introduction and bibliography, by C. H. Coote: London: Henry N. Stevens & Son, 1888. 8vo, pp. xlv. 206, with illustrations. Price 18s., l.p. 31s. 6d.

English Writers. An attempt towards a History of English Literature, by Henry Morley. Second edition. London: Cassell, 1887, 1888. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. xv. 367, xii. 404. Price 5s. per vol.

Through Central Asia; with an appendix on the diplomacy and delimitation of the Russo-Afghan Frontier. By Henry Lansdell, D.D. London: Sampson Low & Co., 1887. 8vo, pp. xx. 668. Price 12s.

Early Prose and Poetical Works of John Taylor (1580-1653). London: Hamilton, Adams & Co. 8vo, pp. 318. Price 5s.

Cæsar in Kent . . . with some Account of Early British Trade and Enterprise. By the Rev. F. T. Vine. Second edition. London: Stock, 1887. 8vo, pp. xiii. 248. Price 5s.

The Counting-out Rhymes of Children, their antiquity, origin and wide distribution. By Henry Carrington Bolton. London: Stock, 1888. 4to, pp. xi. 122. Price 9s.

William Wordsworth: the Story of his Life, with critical remarks on his writings. By James Middleton Sutherland. London: Stock, 1887. 8vo, pp. xiv. 225.

Edward III. and his Wars, 1327-1360. Edited by W. J. Ashley, M.A. London: David Nutt, 1887. 8vo, pp. 199. Price 1s. 6d. The Mis-rule of Henry III., 1236-1248. Edited by Rev. W. H. Hutton. 8vo, pp. 162.

Classical and Foreign Quotations, Law Terms and Maxims, Proverbs, Mottoes, Phrases and Expressions . . . By Wm. Francis Henry King. London: Whitaker, 1887. 8vo, pp. viii. 608. Price 5s.

Hazell's Annual Cyclopædia, 1888 . . . Edited by E. D. Price. London: Hazell, 1888. 8vo, pp. 648. Price 3s. 6d.

most of the notes, as well as the bibliography. A record of a journey of 12,000 miles through such a country could hardly fail to be interesting. Dr. Lansdell gives a curious account of the Public Library at Tashkend.

Many readers, who have heard much but seen little of the scripturient water-poet, John Taylor, may be glad to hear that a selection of some of his early writings in prose and verse has been published at a moderate price by Morison of Glasgow.

Mr. Vine has made use of his local knowledge of sites and traditions in compiling an account of the expedition of Julius Cæsar.

The Counting-out Rhymes of Children are maintained by Mr. Bolton to be survivals of the primeval employment of the lot as a religious ceremony, and he has put together a curious collection of these doggerels as used all over the world, as a contribution to Folk-lore.

Mr. Sutherland's account of Wordsworth is readable enough, but the value of the critical remarks may be estimated from his judgment that "The Excursion" is probably the finest poem of the nineteenth century," and Wordsworth the greatest poet since Milton.

Mr. F. York Powell is editing an interesting series of extracts from contemporary authorities under the general title of "English History by Contemporary Writers." The first instalments are "Edward III. and his Wars," by Mr. W. J. Ashley, and "The Misrule of Henry III.," by the Rev. W. H. Hutton.

Mr. King has done, and done well, a piece of work that was greatly needed. The "Dictionary of Latin and Greek Quotations," which was partly edited by Mr. Bohn and partly by Mr. H. T. Riley, was little more than a reproduction of Moore's foolish book with the omission of a few of the more obvious foolishnesses. But even as edited it was a work that reflected little credit upon English scholarship, and its re-issue by Messrs. Geo. Bell & Sons from the stereotype plates was hardly worthy of the enterprise of that firm. Mr. King has now, at all events, cut the ground from under their feet. He has supplied precise references to sources, and has added a number of useful and interesting notes, besides incorporating French, German, Greek, Italian, Latin, Spanish, and Portuguese quotations in a single alphabet. We might suggest a number of improvements in detail, but these would more properly form the subject of a separate article.

This year's issue of "Hazell's Annual Cyclopædia" is enriched with a number of new articles, and the rest have received a careful revision. In the article on the British Museum, however, the editor has considerably over-estimated the year's accessions to the library. In last year's issue the number of volumes was put at 1,500,000. This year they are put at 2,000,000, an accession of 500,000! The actual number was 33,844, not including parts of volumes or periodicals.

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

MAY MONTHLY MEETING.

The May Monthly Meeting was held at Gray's Inn Library on Friday, May 4, at 7.30 p.m., Mr. W. H. K. Wright in the Chair.

Mr. Faux and Mr. N. E. Jauralde were proposed as members of the Association.

Mr. Charles Sayle read a Paper, "A Library for the East End." After a discussion, a vote of thanks was passed to the reader of the Paper.

The Rev. Professor W. P. Dickson, Curator of the University Library, Glasgow, has been elected by the Council to be President of the Association for this year.

Library Notes and News.

BOLTON.—On April 7 the new Branch Library in High Street, on a site given by Mr. John Heywood, was opened by Mr. Alderman Fielding, Chairman of the Library Committee, in the presence of a large company. The building is in a plain Gothic style of two storeys and basement, and has cost about £2,000.

CAMBRIDGE.—A donation of 60 volumes of popular literature has been received from Mr. W. W. Strickland, of Boynton, Yorkshire.

CARDIFF.—A meeting of Cardiff ratepayers was held on April 17, at which it was resolved to establish, if possible, branch reading rooms in the out-lying districts of Cardiff.

CROYDON.—It is proposed to bring forward the question of Free Public Libraries for Croydon this year, and a Committee is in course of formation. The last poll on the subject was taken in April, 1887.

DENTON.—On April 28, the foundation stone was laid at the Free Library intended to commemorate the Jubilee of the Queen's accession. Out of the £2,000 required, £1,700 has already been subscribed. The ceremony was performed by Mr. E. J. Sidebotham.

DUBLIN.—During the year ended 31st December, 1886, the number of volumes issued from the Capel Street Library for home reading was 26,599, from Thomas Street Library, 18,921. The books issued for reference were at the former 10,865, at the latter, 8,400. The attendances in the reading rooms were at Capel Street, 208,685; at Thomas Street, 115,560. The number of volumes was at Capel Street, 3,219; at Thomas Street, 3,936. Besides these Libraries there is a Technical Library at the Schools of Science and Art, Kerrin Street.

FOLKESTONE.—The new Free Public Library at Folkestone was opened on April 18, by Sir E. W. Watkin, M.P. The cost of the building was about £5,000.

GATESHEAD.—The reading room of the Gateshead Free Library was opened on Sunday, May 6, for the first time; the hours being from 2 till 5 and from 6 till 9 o'clock, 98 persons attended.

GLASGOW.—A poll was taken on the question of adopting the Libraries Acts in Glasgow, on April 27, when the votes were: For the Acts, 13,550; against, 22,987; majority against, 9,437. This is the third time that a poll has been taken on this question.

GLOSSOP.—At a meeting of the Glossop Town Council held on Monday, May 2, it was resolved to take the opinion of the ratepayers as to the adoption of the Libraries Acts. The building itself will be the Jubilee gift of Captain Partington and Mr. H. Rhodes, and will cost £5,200.

HINDLEY.—At the Meeting of the Local Board on April 10, it was resolved to open the Free Library on Sundays.

KINGSTON.—The new Kingston Improvement Bill contains a clause providing for the increase of the Library rate to 2d.

LEICESTER.—Mr. C. Vernon Kirkby, (formerly sub-librarian of the Leeds Free Library), commenced his duties as Chief Librarian of the Leicester Free Library, on May 1. There were 96 applicants.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The twentieth annual meeting of the South London Fine Art Gallery and Free Library took place on April 30 at the Mansion House, the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor in the Chair. It is desired to erect in connection with the Fine Art Gallery, a fire-proof gallery, lecture-hall and reading-room. For this about £5,000 is required.

LONDON: MARYLEBONE.—The Poll on the question of the adoption of the Libraries Acts in the Parish of Marylebone was taken on April 30. The votes were, for 1,946, and against, 4,964; majority against 3,018.

LONDON: NORWOOD.—At a meeting held in the New Library building on April 20, a Committee was formed for the purpose of raising by public subscription the amount necessary to meet the cost of erecting, fitting and furnishing the West Norwood Free Library.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—The date of the opening of the Paddington Free Library is fixed for June 9, when Lord Chief Justice and Lady Coleridge will perform this office.

LONDON: SOUTHWARK.—A meeting of the Christ Church Southwark Vestry was held on April 21, when, on the recommendation of the committee appointed to consider the question of the Free Library, nine commissioners were appointed to carry out the Act. It is estimated that the penny rate in the parish will produce about £400.

LONDON: WHITECHAPEL.—At a special meeting of the Whitechapel Vestry, held April 18, it was decided to attempt to establish a Free Library in that Parish and a committee was appointed to interview the Charity Commissioners on the subject.

LUTON.—A requisition has been presented to the Mayor of Luton asking for a poll of the ratepayers on the question of the adoption of the Libraries Acts.

MANCHESTER.—The new Library and reading-room in Hyde Road, Ardwick, was opened on May 7, by the Mayor of Manchester.

MIDDLETON.—The Mayor of Middleton on April 7 laid the corner-stone of the Queen's Jubilee Free Library. About £1,900 has been promised in subscriptions.

RICHMOND.—A highly successful concert in aid of the Book Fund of the Library took place on May 4.

WALLASEY.—It is proposed to adopt the Libraries Acts here, and the Rev. W. E. B. Gunn is the leading advocate of the proposal. The population is estimated at 32,000, and the rateable value £184,000.

WHITEHAVEN.—The Whitehaven Free Library was opened on May 15 by the Archbishop of York. Mr. J. Simpson has been appointed Librarian.

There is a vacancy in the office of Librarian to Sir George Grey's Library at Capetown, Cape of Good Hope. It is proposed to amalgamate this library, formerly under the management of Dr. Bleek, the philologist, with the public library at Capetown under one management. The salary proposed is £350. Mr. Harrison of the London Library, St. James's Square, will give further information on the subject to any member of the Library Association who will call on him.

It is proposed to present Mr. James Heywood, the donor of the Notting Hill Free Library, with a bust of himself and an illuminated address.

A lecture by Mr. Briscoe, on the "History of Nottingham Castle," has just been published, together with a Guide to the Art Museum. Mr. Briscoe has also just issued a copiously illustrated "Guide to Nottingham."

Librarians have been busy of late talking about the treasures under their charge. On Feb. 11, Mr. Ogle lectured at Bootle on "What to Read." On Feb. 14, Mr. Frank Pacy lectured at Turnham Green on "Libraries, Books and Readers;" and on Mar. 12, Mr. Jewers lectured at Southsea on "Reading and Books that have most influenced me."

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Bristol Public Free Libraries. Catalogue of the Hotwells Branch Library... John Taylor, City Librarian. Bristol, 1888. 8vo, pp. xi. 245.

An index catalogue of the recently opened branch, with numerous references to articles in collectaneous and periodical works. Fiction and juvenile literature are separately catalogued. Printed in double column.

Borough of South Shields Public Library. Catalogue of the Circulating Department. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1888. La. 8vo, pp. 183.

This is a second edition of an index catalogue of 11,324 vols., neatly printed in double columns. The references to fiction in magazines, and to articles in collectaneous and periodical works have been extended. Completed by Mr. T. Pyke, but begun by Mr. L. Inkster, who writes the preface.

Glasgow. Report of the Mitchell Committee, 1887. Glasgow, 1888. 8vo, pp. 56.

The library now comprises 75,831 vols., of which number 5,029 books and pamphlets were acquired during 1887—3,089 by purchase, and 1,940 by gift or bequest. There were 21 vols. stolen. These 75,831 items are contained in 46,020 vols. "The Poet's Corner" now contains 5,425 vols., of which number 1,007 relate to Burns. "The Glasgow Collection" comprises 3,504 items, in 402 vols. "The Early Glasgow Printing" comprises 88 vols.—or 1,145 items—430 of which are from the Foulis Press. There were 418,808 vols. issued, being a slight falling off from the issues of 1886. This is due to an improvement in the state of trade and to the inadequacy of accommodation for students. There were 290 periodicals available. During the ten years of the existence of the Mitchell Library nearly four millions of volumes have been consulted; and the references to periodicals are estimated at about the same total. Mr. Barrett, the librarian, expresses his belief that "no public library of nearly equal extent, value, and public usefulness, is kept in premises at once so insecure, unsuitable, and so inadequate for the work discharged within them. The payments of the year amounted to £2,989, and of those from 1874 to £37,075, of which sum £14,007 was for books, periodicals and binding.

Hereford. The Sixteenth Annual Report of the Committee of the Free Public Library and Museum, to the Town Council, 1887-8. Hereford. 8vo, pp. 15.

The committee report "the continued success and usefulness of the institution." A Book Club has been established, which "has proved a decided success." A Telegram Fund has been started. Hydrants have been fixed on each floor of the building. The committee lament the want of space for readers. No University Extension Lectures were delivered during the year. The year's issues from the lending library were 27,043 vols., against 23,538 vols. in 1886-7; and those in the reference library 11,558, against 9,408. There were 341 borrowers enrolled. The penny rate realized £404. The stock of books numbers 12,454, of which number 8,943 are in the lending library.

Leeds. Seventeenth Annual Report of the Leeds Free Public Library and Museum, 1886-7. Leeds, 1888. 8vo, pp. 25.

The library now consists of 155,289 vols., divided as follows:—reference library, 38,883 vols.; central lending 39,573 vols.; and branches, 76,823 vols. Of the twenty-five branches seventeen are in connection with board schools. The total issues were 823,005 vols.—114,401 from the reference library, 390,019 from the central lending library, and 318,585 from branches—being an increase, compared with those of the previous year of 11,309 vols. from the reference library, and a decrease of 23,861 vols. from the central lending and branch libraries. The winter exhibition was attended by 1,114 persons per day—in all, by 88,073 persons. The year's attendances at the museum and art gallery was 59,248. The attendances in the central news room and the branches were 573,595 and 573,504 respectively.

Nottingham. Fiftieth Annual Report of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution... Nottingham, 1888. 8vo, pp. 24.

This popular institution celebrated its Jubilee last year. An exhibition of local literature was highly appreciated. A history of the Institution was published in two forms. The years receipts were £2,753. There were 885 vols. added to the library, which now contains about 18,000 vols. The year's issues reached 81,670 vols., being an increase of 10,231 vols. A local library has been formed. The lectures were very well attended. The institution has over 3,000 members.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

A Bibliography of the Works written and edited by Dr. John Worthington, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge ... compiled by Richard Copley Christie, Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester, President of the Chetham Society. Printed for the Chetham Society, 1888. 4to, pp. ix. 88.

The Diary and Correspondence of Dr. Worthington was partly edited by the late Mr. James Crossley, after whose death the task was completed by Mr. Chancellor Christie, who now issues a separate bibliography. Worthington published no original independent work in his life time; but his revised translation of the *De Imitatione Christi* passed through many editions, and he also edited the *Select Discourses* of John Smith and the *Works* of Joseph Mede. Chancellor Christie enumerates 13 editions of the *Christian's Pattern* and shows cause for thinking that the first edition was published in 1654, though no copy of that edition is known to exist. The books are described with the care and diligence we are accustomed to expect from the compiler, who has always given his authority, which is the more necessary, as many of the editions are here described for the first time. In the Appendix are some particulars as to John Worthington the son.

Bodleian Lending to special persons in University Institutions. An argument addressed to Members of Congregation. By Falconer Madan, M.A. Oxford: Printed for the Author, 1888. 8vo, pp. 32.

On May 31st, 1887, Congregation decided to forbid the lending of books from the Bodleian, except by leave of Convocation. A proposal has since been made that books should be lent to certain persons holding official positions in University Institutions. Against this proposal Mr. Madan argues vigorously declaring that "the whole history of the Bodleian is a speaking witness against lending." In an Appendix he has given a "bibliography of last year's contest," extending to 26 articles. Mr. Madan's argument, or his bibliography, has been too much for Congregation, and the obnoxious proposal has been rejected.

Deux Notes sur des impressions du XV^e^ Siècle. By L. Delisle. 8vo, pp. 8.

As a new year's greeting to his friends, the learned head of the Bibliothèque Nationale has printed their short account of some memoranda made on two 15th century books, in the national collection, which are of importance for the history of printing. The first is a note on a copy of Augustinus, De Civitate Dei, Mayence, 1473, showing that its printer Peter Schoiffer, sold it to the Convent of the Holy Cross at Paris, on March 13th, 1477, for the reduced price of four francs, instead of eleven, in consideration of their having taken charge of his stock. It is noteworthy that in speaking of Schoiffer the writer says—"a quo processit exordium omnium impressorum et impressurarum tocius orbis." The second note is in a copy of the *Psalterium Virginis Mariæ*, dated 1498 and printed in Sweden, and shows that the book was printed in a Carthusian Monastery, at the expense of Ingeburgis, wife of Stenon, famous in Swedish history. M. Delisle supplies photographic reproductions of the notes.

Programma scolastico di Paleografia latina e di Diplomatica esposto da Cesare Paoli ...Paleografia latina. 2^a^ ediz. Firenze: Sansoni, 1888. 8vo, pp. vii. 59. Price L.2.50.

We have already noticed several of the publications in this "Biblioteca di Bibliografia e Paleografia." Prof. Paoli contributes to the series a compendious view of the subjects of paleography and diplomatics.

Katalog der Bibliothek des Reichs-Justizamts. Berlin, 1887. La. 8vo, pp. xlvii. 761.

An elaborate classed catalogue, preceded by a conspectus of the system, and followed by an alphabetical index. We observe that the labels attached to the volumes with their press-marks are *white* for German law, *yellow* for international law, and *blue* for foreign law, while *red* labels are used for *Hilfswissenschaften.*

The March number of *The Bookbinder* contains the first instalment of a "Bibliography of Works on Binding," by Mr. S. T. Prideaux.

W. M. Griswold has issued his "Annual Index to Periodicals for 1887." The price is $1 and his London agent is Mr. B. F. Stevens.

No. 29 of the Bibliographical Contributions issued by the Library of the Harvard University is an "Index to recent Reference Lists, No. III," by W. C. Lane.

The *Cornell Library Bulletin* for January contains some useful "References on Municipal Government in the United States."

The March-April double number of the new *Revista delle Biblioteche* contains a number of interesting articles. A. Bruschi writes on the official statistics of reading in the State Libraries; P. Gori on the lending of books from the State and Provincial Libraries; and E. Palumbo on the binding of periodicals in Public Libraries; Prof. Castellani writes on some Venice-printed liturgical books.

The Report addressed to the French Minister of Public Instruction by M. Léopold Delisle on the Libri and Barrois MSS. in the Ashburnham Collection, has been re-printed from the *Bibliothèque de l'École des Charters* (8vo, pp. 6). It is dated London, 23 February of this year, and relates how he had that day handed over to Mr. Trübner the famous Manesse Manuscript formerly at Heidelberg, but which had found its way into the Bibliothèque Nationale, as part of the arrangement by which the French recover the 166 MSS. of the Ashburnham Collection, which had been improperly removed from various French libraries.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright, as Hon. General Secretary of the Armada Commemoration, issues an appeal for loans of arms, relics, pictures, portraits, books, manuscripts, and other matters of interest connected with that eventful period, for an Armada Exhibition, to be opened at Plymouth on Friday, 20th July.

Our readers will have noticed with interest the correspondence in the *Athenæum* (May 19th and 26th) as to the extracts in the *Bookworm* from Mr. Stevens's book on Lenox, which are a violation not only of Mr. Henry N. Stevens' rights, but also of the rights of the Library Association, as the book was substantially reproduced from its Liverpool Transactions. According to Mr. Stock, there is no limit to the right of printing extracts, provided, we suppose, that you make blunders enough in reprinting. The "able editor" of the *Bookworm* claims to have taught Mr. Stevens "the elements of his business." How much he has to learn of the elements of his own, is sufficiently shown by the fact that he was unable to reproduce a printed passage without making seven atrocious blunders in a single page (April number, p. 172)!

Correspondence.

Libraries and Newspapers.

41, *Sudell Road, Darwen, April* 30, 1888.

I had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Norman Lockyer after a lecture here a few months ago. He appears to take some interest in Public Libraries, and during the conversation it was suggested, as being a useful thing for the newspapers in any town, to publish lists of all the new books, as soon as they are added to the library, so that the public may know what is being added without having to go to the library, or wait for new catalogues. I mentioned the matter to our local papers and they fell in with the idea at once. Already they have published over two columns of new works added during the last twelve months, and on Saturday last a further list appeared. This plan of publishing lists in the papers might with advantage, I think, be adopted by other towns having Free Public libraries. I only know of two other towns that do it—Leeds and Newcastle-on-Tyne.

N. Jepson.

The Aunual Meeting at Glasgow has been fixed for the 4th of September.

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The Library Chronicle.

THOMAS HALL, AND THE OLD LIBRARY FOUNDED BY HIM AT KING'S NORTON.[1]

By W. Salt Brassington.

BY way of introduction to the Library at King's Norton, we will briefly consider the life of the donor.

Thomas Hall was a native of Worcestershire, born in the City of Worcester in the year of grace, 1610. Educated at the King's School in the "Faithful City" until 14 years of age, Hall then matriculated at Oxford and entered at Balliol College, but in the following year (1625) he migrated to newly founded Pembroke, which may be called his family college; his nephew, John Hall, D.D., was for forty years master of Pembroke College, and died Bishop of Bristol. Soon after he left Oxford, Thomas Hall received the cure of souls and the mastership of the Grammar School at King's Norton, mainly through the influence of his brother John, then Vicar of Bromsgrove. During the early years of his ministry, Hall attended lectures in the Parish Church at Birmingham, and afterwards himself became the lecturer. These early lectures appear to have influenced him greatly, so that he forsook his High Church views and became a Presbyterian; consequently he met with much persecution during the period of the Civil Wars; some honour under the Protectorate of Cromwell; fell into disgrace again under Charles II., and was finally banished from his Church and School by the passing of the Act of Uniformity in 1662. Hall died in poverty in 1665. He was a voluminous author, and a good parish priest. During his lifetime he gave his books, about 900 in number, to his beloved parish of King's Norton; he was a benefactor also to the first Public Library in Birmingham—the Library of King Edward's School. To-day we are chiefly interested in the Library of King's Norton, a village about five miles south of Birmingham.

Upon viewing for the first time the Library of Thomas Hall, I felt almost inclined to imitate Dominie Sampson, who, "swinging his arms like the sails of a windmill, shouted PRODIGIOUS! till the roof rang to his raptures" at beholding the bishop's Library, which had been entrusted to his care. "Books of theology, and controversial divinity, commentaries, and polyglots, sets of the Fathers, and sermons, which might each furnish forth ten brief discourses of modern date," &c. Indeed Sir Walter Scott

[1] Read at the Birmingham Meeting, September 1887.

might have had the Hall library before him when he wrote this passage in "Guy Mannering," so accurately has he described the books at King's Norton, not the contents alone, but even the binding and condition of the volumes:

> "That weight of wood, with leathern coat o'erlaid,
> Those ample clasps of solid metal made,
> The close-press'd leaves unoped for many an age,
> The dull red edging of the well-fill'd page,
> On the broad back the stubborn ridges roll'd,
> Where yet the title stands in tarnish'd gold."

The books repose in ponderous oaken presses, seldom disturbed, except by an occasional visit from a church mouse in search of a meal, and by the parish sexton in want of a piece of paper wherewith to light his lantern.

The original catalogue still exists, and has been entrusted to my care by the kindness of the Vicar of King's Norton (the Rev. D. Cotes-Preedy, to whom I am indebted for much courtesy). The catalogue is in MS.; the writing resembles that of Thomas Hall, of which we have abundant examples in the volumes of his library, but I am not prepared to assert that the catalogue was written by the donor of the books, although I am of opinion that it may have been compiled during his lifetime.

Eight hundred and seventy-six volumes are catalogued. The books are classed under three heads: 1st "English Folios," 99; 2nd "English Quartos," 253; and 3rd "Octavos," 623. Some of the books are now missing, others are in fragments; but when we reflect that the last book was added to the library some 220 years ago, it is not surprising that a few have been lost: it is more wonderful that so many remain. In the catalogue no account has been taken of the great number of tracts and sermons, bound together from five to thirty-five in a volume. The title of the first tract in each volume alone has been recorded.

The dust and cobwebs have been removed from fifty volumes, which have been placed in the Birmingham Reference Library for the inspection of the members of this Association. I hope the resuscitation commenced may be continued, and that in the future a more accessible lodgment may be provided for the library, which, though at first sight may appear uninteresting, yet on closer inspection will be found to furnish much that is valuable both to the student and to the reader in general.

Before opening the books, we will consider the bindings. At the dissolution of religious houses the great libraries were scattered, and many of the treasures falling into the hands of the ignorant were destroyed. It was a common practice of the book-binders of that period to cut up vellum MSS. and bind new books therewith. There are at King's Norton many examples of books so bound. Here is one, a copy of "De Arte Rhetorica" bound in a leaf from an old service book. The music is curious; the lines of the stave are four in number. The notes are all either squares or rhomboids, and there are no stems used.

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries book covers were often made of wood, chiefly of oak and beech; under the influence of our damp climate, beech wood soon falls a prey to insects that derive their nourishment from wood; hence the decayed condition of many of the wooden bindings in the library. Oak, however, is less liable to decay, and the covers of the books so bound are in fair condition.

The boards were covered with stout tanned leather adorned by stamped patterns,

and further embellished by metal bosses and clasps. Alas! Not one clasp can now be found on any of the books in the School House at King's Norton.

Diagram of cold-stamped leather book-binding by John Reynes.
Early 16th Century.

The patterns stamped upon the leather may be divided roughly into four classes:

1st. Geometrical designs. | 3rd. Heraldic designs.
2nd. Arabesque „ | 4th. Figure subjects.

The Library possesses examples of each class. Embellishments of the 1st and 2nd classes are found chiefly on folios; figures are usually seen on octavos; heraldry appears on books of all sizes. Several covers are adorned with medallions of the heads of the Cæsars; this fashion may have arisen from the custom of placing busts

Diagrams of cold-stamped leather book-binding by or for Wynkyn de Worde. The name of the binder for whom the stamp was originally made is unknown. Early 16th Century. (See *The Bookbinder*, vol. i. pp. 163, 181.)

of the emperors in the many niches, and along the horizontal lines of the manor houses of the Tudor period; or perhaps the medallions were copied from enamels and ancient gems. Many of the books are stamped with the letters T. H., the initials of Thomas Hall.

In the sixteenth century Hans Holbein occasionally designed ornamental book-covers as well as title-pages and borders. After a critical examination of the covers, I am persuaded that some of them exhibit the influence if not the actual work of Holbein; and that others are fine examples of the skill of Master John Reynes, "Royal Binder" to Henry VII. and Henry VIII.; for instance, a book called in the colophon "Questiones evãgeliorum tã de tempore q̃ de sanctis domini Johannis de turrecremata cardinalis feliciter. Impresse lug'd, per johãnem de vingle. Anno nostre salutis m.cccc. nono. die v̄o xviij mensis Januarii. Laus deo." (a black letter quarto, by Torquemada, printed by Vingle at Leyden, in fine preservation, in 1641, the property of Dr. Samuel Wills, Rector of Birmingham), is curiously bound. Dr. Wills signed the Covenant in 1647, but Hutton tells us that during the Commonwealth Wills was kept from his Church and Rectory by one "Slater, a broken apothecary." This book was a gift from the Rector to Thomas Hall, and it is worthy of remark that Hall was "Lecturer" at St. Martin's, Birmingham, at the time when Dr. Wills was Rector.

The designs on the covers of the book are as follows. On the front: the emblems of the Crucifixion of our Lord, arranged after the manner of the ancient plates of arms in St. George's Chapel, the motto being "Redemptoris Mundi Arma." On a small shield in the left hand upper corner may be seen the initials "J. R." bound together by a "true-lover's-knot;" there can be little doubt that the letters stand for "John Reynes," the name of the book-binder. On the back of the book the design is divided into two compartments; in the first, the arms of Henry VII., with crown and supporters, a grey-hound and a dragon; in the second, a Tudor rose surrounded by a motto,—

HEC ROSA VIRTUTIS DE CELO MISSA SERENO
ETERNÛM FLORENS REGIA SCEPTRA FERET.

and supported by two angels; at the bottom a pomegranate, the badge of Catharine of Arragon, wife first of Prince Arthur, afterwards of Henry VIII.

We found the earliest *English* printed book in the library forming the cover of a volume of much later date. It is a treatise on Ethics by "Johannes Dedicus" of Oxford, printed by "Johannes Scolar" at Oxford in 1518, black letter. Only two copies of this work were known previously—one in the University Library at Cambridge, the other in the Library of Jesus College, Oxford. Scolar was the second Oxford printer, being the successor of Theodoric Rood; both Scolar and Rood were foreigners. It contains two woodcuts, one the arms of Henry VII., the other the arms of the University of Oxford, with the old motto, "Veritas Liberabit, Bonitas Regnabit." Attached is an account of Wyatt's rebellion and the proclamation of the Sheriff of Kent, A.D. 1554.

Some curious portions of MSS. and pages of black letter books have been pasted or stitched into other volumes. It was not unusual to work up old almanacks in this way. Loose in the cover of one book is a fragment of "An Almanack for the Yeare of Our Lord God, 1645, wherein is contained "a probable conjecture of the temper of the four seasons, &c., calculated properly for the famous University and Towne of Cambridge, where the pole is elevated 52 degrees 17 minutes. Printed at London by J. N.

for the Company of Stationers, 1645." On the second page is "a note of the time for forbidding marriages," beginning "when Advent Sunday cometh marriage is forbidden until Hilarie," &c.; on another page we find a history of the chief events of the previous year, for example: "Sir Thomas Fairfax took the garrison at Leeds by storming it, and 1,500 prisoners, 2 brass sacers, all their arms and ammunition. Col. Beumont was drowned in the flight, and Sir W. Savile hardly escaped the second time. The Lord Goring's letter, dated Paris, 15 Jan., 1644, à la Ragne d'Angleterre, was intercepted, informing Her Majesty that all the jewels of the crown are pawned but two, and that foraign forces are to invade this kingdom." The fly-leaves of a volume of Vulla's "Adeps" are composed of pages from the "Bartholomeus" of Wynkyn de Worde, printed in 1495, and of extreme rarity.

Turning from scraps to bulky folios, we come upon the great theological treatises of Calvin, Erasmus, Jewel, and others; works as ponderous in style as they are in actual bulk. Dibdin wrote of Erasmus, "full of sweetness of temper, of playfulness of wit, liberality of sentiment, and variety and importance of information—clothed withal in a style of pure and fluent latinity, such as has never been surpassed by later writers. To have sat down to a 'dinner of herbs' with More, Melancthon and Erasmus, were a festival infinitely beyond a banquet of golden cups between Charles V., Henry VIII. and Francis I." The Commentary of Erasmus on the New Testament is a noble work, splendidly printed and in fair condition. The engraved border is worthy of careful study. It is an allegory, full of wonderfully life-like figures. At the top is a castle called "Arx Veræ Felicitatis"; at the bottom, the walled garden of "The Housewife Fortune," at the sides are the paths of life. The original border was designed by Hans Holbein for the Πίναξ, or "Tabula," of Cebes. The "Tabula," is a description of an allegorical picture supposed to be affixed to the walls of a temple of Saturn, representing the life and trials of mankind. Holbein's border was used by H. Froben, at Basil; a copy of it may be seen in Butsch—"Bücher-ornamentik der Renaissance." The picture before us is an adaptation of the "Tabula" border to suit Christian philosophy. The capital letters throughout the volume, undoubtedly, are the work of Holbein. The book bears the printers' mark of John Froben, Basil, 1527. Froben commenced printing in 1491, and ceased in 1527. Therefore, this fine edition of Erasmus was one of the last works of the Froben press.

Three smaller folios next claim our attention. The first has a local interest, the author being a former rector of Sutton Coldfield. The book is entitled "The Scripture Directory for Church Officers and People." By Anthony Burgesse, Pastor of the Church of Sutton Coldfield in Warwickshire.[1] London, 1659. The second: "Treatises and Meditations, by Francis Rouse. London, 1657," is embellished by a well engraved portrait of the Author, wearing the steeple-crown hat, and pointed beard of the period; and a series of emblematical pictures faces the portrait. The third: "Recreations with the Muses. By William Earl of Sterline. London: Printed by Tho. Harper, 1637," has lately been reprinted by one of the Scotch Antiquarian Associations. The King's Norton copy is a first edition. It contains "Foure Monarchicke Tragedies," viz: "Crœsus," "Darius," "Alexandraean Tragedy," "Julius

[1] Anthony Burgess, M.A., of S. John's College, Cambridge, and Fellow of Emanuel College, born at Watford in Hartfordshire, Rector of Sutton Coldfield, being persecuted, fled to Coventry, the stronghold of the Puritans in the Midlands. Elected a member of the Westminster Assembly of Divines. Ejected from his living in 1662, and removed to Tamworth, where he died.

Cæsar"; a Heroic poem to Prince Henry, (the favourite son of James I.) another heroic entitled "Jonathan," and a long sacred poem in twelve parts, called "Hours," on "The Dooms-day or the Great Day of the Lord's Judgment." The Earl of Stirling is best known as "William Alexander." Stirling's Julius Cæsar was first published in 1606, but may have been written earlier; Shakespeare's play bearing the same name was not published until it appeared in the first folio of 1623, but it is more than probable (as Mr. Halliwell Phillipps has pointed out) that it was written in or before the year 1601. There are many points of resemblance in the two plays, notably in the scene between Portia and Brutus. However, it appears to be as likely that Stirling copied Shakespeare, as that Shakespeare copied Stirling. Perhaps we may be nearer the truth if we suppose that both poets took their material from the same source. The book also contains a sonnet by Drummond of Hawthornden, the friend of Stirling. "Fair Tigress," and "Aurora" are the epithets by which Stirling addresses his mistress in his sonnets. But time forbids that we should linger with the poets.

We turn to Sermons. The library contains a fair collection of Sermons by most of the leading Divines of the period, chiefly Puritanical, but not entirely so. Here are discourses by Thomas Fuller, and his uncle, Bishop Davenant, George Morley, Bishop of Worcester, who preached at the Coronation of Charles II., Henry King, Chaplain to Charles I., Richard Calfont who, on the 23rd of May, 1644, preached in St. Mary's Oxford, before the King's rival Parliament, and many others.

Of Puritanical Preachers, we have the discourses of "Ministers of the Word" in almost every corner of England. Sermons preached before the Long Parliament at Westminster, Sermons preached at Dublin, Reading, Bath and Oxford. Interesting from the occasion on which it was delivered is "A sermon preached at Newport in the Isle of Wight, October, 1648, in the time of the Treaty. By Robert Sanderson, D.D., &c., London, 1653." We may here mention sermons, tracts, and polemical treatises having reference to "New England."

"A Letter of Many Ministers in Old England, requesting the judgment of the reverend Brethren in New England concerning 9 Protestations, written in 1637. Together with the Answer in 1639. By Simeon Ash, and W^m. Rathband. London, 1643." "Antinomians and Familists condemned by the Synod of Elders in New England, etc. London, 1644."

"Virginia, A Sermon Preached at White-Chappel, In the presence of many, Honourable and Worshipfull, The Adventurers and Planters for Virginia, 25 April, 1609. Published For the Benefit and Use of the Colony, Planted And to bee Planted there, and for the Advancement of their Christian Purpose. By William Symonds, Preacher at St. Saviors in *Southwarke.* London printed by J. Windet, for Eleazar Edgar and William Welby, and are to be sold in Paules Churchyard at the Signe of the Windmill." (pp. vi. + 54.)

"Ill News from New England. By John Clark, Physician, of Rode Island in America. London, 1652."

"The Civil Magistrates Power in Matters of Religion Modestly Debated, etc., Together with a Brief Answer to a certain Slanderous Pamphlet called, *Ill News from* New England; *or, a Narrative* of New England's *Persecution.* By John Clark, of *Road Iland*, Physician. By Thomas Cobbet. *Teacher of the Church* at Lynne, *in* New England. London Printed by *W. Wilson*, for *Philemon Stephens* at the Gilded Lion in Paul's Churchyard, 1653." (pp. xiv. + 52.)

And lastly a book with a most peculiar title, and probably on that account a favourite with Trans-Atlantic collectors. It reached its fourth edition in one year.

"The Simple Cobbler of Aggawam in America, willing to help 'mend his Native Country lamentably tattered, both in the upper Leather and Sole, with all the Honest stitches he can take, And as willing never to be paid for his work by old England's wonted pay. It is his trade to patch, all the year long, gratis: Therefore I pray, gentlemen, keep your purses. By Theodore de la Guard.

"*In rebus arduis ac tenui spe fortissima quaeque consilia tutissima sunt.* Cic. In English:

When bootes and shoes are torne up to the lefts,
Coblers must thrust awles up to the hefts.
This is no time to fear *Apelles gramm:*
Ne Sutor quidem ultra crepidam.

London: Printed by F. D. and R. I. for Stephen Bowtell, at the side of the Bible in Popes-Head Alley, 1647." (pp. ii. + 80.)

The author of "The Simple Cobbler," was Nathanael Ward. Thomas Hall has made a note of this. The tract ends with the following:

"So farewell England old
If evill times ensue,
Let good men come to us,
Wee'l welcome them to New.
* * * *
And farewell, simple world,
If thou'lt thy Cranium mend,
There is my Last and All,
And a Shoem-Akers end."

Apropos of Cobbler is another tract bearing date "London, 1644."

"The Sufficiency of the Spirit's Teaching Without Humane Learning, etc. By Samuel *How*," a cobbler, upon which R. O. has written the following verses:

"What How? how now? Hath How such learning found?
To throw Hearts curious Image to the ground:
Cambridge & Oxford, may their glory now
Vail to a Cobler, if they know but How;
Though big with Art, they cannot over top,
The *spirits*-teaching, in a Cobbler's shop:
Reader, if thou an humane Artist be,
Let humane learning be no judge for thee:
Lay down thine Arts; then try this *Coblers end*,
And see, if it be by the Spirit pend,
Meantime a due (sic), ye Arts and Artists all,
The Spirits teaching may attend the aul.
And thou brave Cobler, blow another blast,
Upon their Learning, though thou blow thy LAST. R. O."

The veteran volumes of the library bear no date, but from the character of the type of the one, and the wood-cuts of the other, I am disposed to assign to them a date near to the end of the 15th or very early in the 16th century.

The first, a small folio, illustrates the gradual change from MS. to printed book. It is the third volume of the works of St. Augustine, a commentary on the Psalms in black letter; all the capital letters are of Lombardic character, hand painted, alternately red

and blue. The great capital at the commencement has been cut out ruthlessly, otherwise the book is perfect, with the exception of the last page.

The fact that the book bears neither printer's name nor date makes it difficult to assign either the place or the year of publication. It is just possible that this may be one of the early Italian printed books; the second book printed in Italy was Augustine's "City of God," dated 1467, the celebrated production of the monks of the Monastery of Subiaco; but from the character of the paper it appears more likely that it was printed in Holland. The date, 1480, has been conjecturally assigned to it in the catalogue of the British Museum, where a copy of the first volume may be seen. A perfect copy of the three volumes is preserved in the Bodleian Library.

The next volume is a curiosity. It is called "Margarita Philosophica," and contains twelve treatises on grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, music, astronomy, natural philosophy, &c., &c.; it is embellished by several beautiful woodcuts (probably older than the letter-press of the volume) and interesting diagrams, in one of the latter the earth appears as the centre of the universe. Copernicus published his work on the Solar System in 1543, but "Margarita Philosophica" is much older than 1543. The author was Gregorius Reisch, Prior of a Carthusian monastery near Fribourg. The printer was Johannes Schotus of Fribourg. The date of the volume is 1503.

The earliest *dated* book in the library is a copy of the Epistles of Cicero, printed at Leyden by James Zachon, 1505.

We must not forget to mention two curious English books: "Purchas His Pilgrims" and Stubs' "Anatomie of Abuses." The former is the first edition of the "Microcosmos or the History of Man, By Samuel Purchas, Parson of S. Martins, neer Ludgate, London, 1619." "The Pilgrims" first appeared in 1613, and afterwards were extended into five folio volumes in 1625. The latter, *i.e.* "The Anatomie," is the fourth edition, 1595, a choice copy in black letter.

By local authors we have the following treatises:—Thomas Hopkins, of Yardley, wrote "Two Godly and Profitable Sermons, earnestly inveighing against the sins of this Land in general, and in particular against the sins of this City of London. Preached in the City of London by T. Hopkins, Minister at Yardley, in the County Worcester. London, 1618." The sermons are dedicated to W. Hancock, Mayor of Coventry. pp. vi. + 72. John Ley, Rector of Solihull, wrote under the nom-de-plume of Theopholus Philadelphus. Ley was the author of a work entitled "Exceptions Many and Just Against Two Injurious Petitions, &c. Oxford, 1653;" and his name occurs again in "A Debate concerning the English Liturgy, by E. Hyde, D.D., and John Ley, Rector of Solyhull, in Warwickshire. London, 1656." Then there is the interesting little book called "The character of an Old English Puritan or Non-conformist. By John Geree, Minister and Preacher of the Word some time at Tewkesbury, but now at S. allows, London, 1646."

It is a curious fact that, although Thomas Hall was a voluminous writer, yet so far as the examination of his library has extended, not a single volume of his works has been discovered, either in the old catalogue or on the book-shelves. At the Birmingham Library, however, a copy of Hall's book called "The Font Guarded" is preserved; and I am informed that the library of King Edward's School also contains a few of Hall's works. In the Birmingham Free Library are found:—"Comarum ἀκοσμία, The Loathsomnesse of Long Haire, &c. By Thomas Hall B.D. London 1654." "Funebria Floræ The Downfall of May-Games etc. By Thomas Hall B.D.

and Pastor of King's Norton, London 1661," pp. ii. + 48, and "The Beauty of Magistracy. London 1660." 4to, pp. xxii. + 188.

One cannot fail to notice the alliterative and punning titles of many of the books of theology. The pun chiefly flourished in the reign of James I. "That learned monarch (wrote Addison) was himself a tolerable punster, and made very few bishops or privy-counsellors that had not some time or other signalized themselves by a clinch or a conundrum. . . The greatest authors in their most serious works made frequent use of puns. The sermons of Bishop Andrews and the tragedies of Shakespeare are full of them. The sinner was punned into repentance by the former, as in the latter nothing is more usual than to see a hero weeping and quibbling for a dozen lines together."

It is said that the only way to try a piece of wit is to translate it into a different language. If it bears the test, you may pronounce it true; but if it vanishes in the experiment, you may conclude it to have been a pun. "'Αμαρτωλὸς 'Αμαρτία, or The Sinfulness of Sin, By S. Bolton, London, 1646;" and Καταβάπτισται Καταπτύστοι, "The Dippers Dipt, or the Anabaptists Ducked and Plunged over Head and Ears, at a disputation in Southwark, by Daniel Featherly, D.D., London, 1651." Both, I think, answer to the test and may be counted truly witty.

The divines of the 17th century were prolific writers, and the lawyers followed at no great distance; they naturally looked at events from a legal point of view, as in "King Charles, his Case, or an Appeal to all rational men concerning his Tryal at the High Court of Justice, &c., by John Cooke, of Grays Inn, Barrister. London, 1649;" and in the writings of the much suffering and often pilloried William Prynne. Here we have the second edition of his "Anti-arminianisme," 1630, and "A Legal Resolution of two important Quares," 1656. The latter contains an attack upon Richard Baxter and Thomas Hall.

Of historical tracts we find a good collection relating to Cromwell, and Generals Fairfax, Monk, Lambert, &c. There are copies of the letters which passed between Monk and the Cabal at Wallingford House in 1660; when Monk was at the head of the army in the north, and Fleetwood and his colleagues at Wallingford were preparing the way for the return of Charles II.

Several volumes of parliamentary speeches afford much food for study. "The Speech of Mr. St. John concerning Ship-money, London, 1640;" "The Earle of Strafford's Letter to His Most Excellent Majesty. Dated from the Tower 4th May, 1641." "The Earle of Strafford's Speech on the Scaffold before he was beheaded on Tower-hill, the 12th May, 1641," and "A Declaration of the Commons in Parliament, Made Sept. 9th, 1641," (concerning removing altars, crucifixes, "scandalous pictures," &c., from the Churches), carry the mind back to the period when the Long Parliament first assembled at Westminster, and discontent was changing into open rebellion. Eight small tracts call for passing remark "Testimony to the Solemn League and Covenant, 1647-8."[1] Appended are lists of names of the ministers who subscribed to the Covenant in London, Lancashire, Cheshire, Essex, Warwickshire, Staffordshire, Gloucestershire, and Shropshire.

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[1] Reprinted in "The Transactions of the Birmingham and Midland Institute: Archæological Section—1887-8," as an appendix to a paper on "An Old Birmingham Lecturer: Thomas Hall, A.D. 1610-1665," read before the Society by W. S. B.

In the list of Warwickshire ministers we find :—

"Rob. Ladbrook, Solihull.
Sam. Wills, of Birmingham.
Tho. Hall, Pastor of King's Norton."

And in his own handwriting Hall has added, "*Lect. at Birmingham.*"

We have by no means exhausted the treasures of the old Library, but time forbids that we should longer pursue the subject. I venture to hope that now attention has been called to the collection, means may be taken to save the books from total decay in the locked cupboards of the dilapidated and disused grammar school.

AN OPEN REFERENCE LIBRARY AT CAMBRIDGE.[1]

By J. E. Foster.

Visitors to the Free Library at Cambridge, and especially those who are acquainted with similar institutions elsewhere, are much struck with the large number of books in the Reading Room, which are freely accessible to all persons entering it. They form a feature almost peculiar to the above Library, and it may interest some to have an account of the rise and present position of this department of the Institution, and possibly induce them to adopt it in others.

The Free Library at Cambridge was opened in 1855 as a Reference Library only, neither Magazines, Newspapers, nor a Lending Library being provided in it. The books were a miscellaneous collection, only a small number being works of reference, and these but little used.

The establishment of a Lending Department three years later led to more labour than could be accomplished by the Librarian and his boy assistant. Constant demands for such reference books as Dictionaries and Encyclopædias led first to one and then to others being shelved in the Reading Room so that readers could help themselves, and so satisfactory did this method prove that other works were added from time to time.

The commencement was made in the year 1858, when a copy of Webster's Dictionary was placed in the Reading Room, and at the end of six years the number of volumes had increased to 322. The Library removed to new and enlarged premises in 1862, and the increased use of it brought more readers into the Reading Room than the Newspapers and Magazines laid upon the table supplied, and this suggested the addition of a Library of miscellaneous and instructive reading. Two gentlemen, the late Mr. James Reynolds and Mr. H. T. Hall, both Members of the Committee, bore the first cost, the one providing the books (50 in number), the other the bookcase. The former belonged to a class of the community now almost extinct. He was a retired stage coachman and took the warmest interest in the Library from its foundation, and was a liberal benefactor to it during his life and bequeathed a handsome legacy to it at his death. To the generosity of the latter gentleman are due the collections of Shakespeariana and of books relating to the Drama, consisting of several thousand volumes, which form most valuable and striking departments of the Library,

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1 Read at the Birmingham Meeting, September 22nd, 1887.

and also numberless other books added to the General Library, and the flow is still unceasing.

The idea took and the use made of these was great, nor were they improperly used or stolen. From these commencements the department has gradually grown up till it now contains 1276 volumes, of which 100 are Directories, Calendars and Annuals; 428 Dictionaries and Encyclopædias of all kinds and upon all subjects, and 648 are works of General Literature, nearly all of which have been presented.

The following is a selection from the books in each class:—Among the Directories are those of Messrs. Kelly for London and all the English Counties; the A. B. C.; the Trade Directories; the Clerical Directories; the Calendars of the various Universities; the Peerages and Baronetages; the Statesman's Year-Book; and such of the usual annual publications as the Committee purchase from year to year.

Amongst the Dictionaries are the Dictionary of National Biography; the Encyclopædia Britannica; Dr. William Smith's Dictionaries; Spon's Dictionary of Engineering; the Technological Dictionary; Brunet's Manuel du Libraire; the Dictionaries of Various Languages in the Library; Halliwell's Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words; Glossary of Ecclesiastical Terms; Stainton's Natural History of the Tineina; several Bibles and Bible Commentaries; and many other books of this kind.

Amongst the books of General Literature may be quoted a complete set of the late Charles Darwin's Works, presented by his widow; the Works of Washington Irving, John Timbs, W. H. Maxwell, Henry Fawcett, Grace Wharton, Dr. Doran, Charles Knight, Harriet Martineau, Andrew Wynter, and others.

It will now be asked to what extent the books thus put at their disposal are used by the persons entering the room? To this it is of course impossible to give any answer in figures, as no statistics are nor in fact can be kept, but practically there is no time in the day in which some persons may not be seen at the tables placed in front of the book shelves either consulting them or sitting down to read them, while at particular times the use made of them is very great. The Undergraduates and Lady Students from Newnham and Girton will be seen taking notes from the Scientific Dictionaries, and the man of business will be obtaining his customers' addresses from the Directories, while the books in the class of General Literature will be perused by all classes who happen to have a spare hour or two.

The large attendance in the Reading Room of the Library may be to a considerable extent attributed to the attraction of the Library thus open to all.

It may then be asked what check there is against the improper use of the books or their being carried away? To this the answer is that there is none except that of the other frequenters of the room, and it is found that there is no need for any supervision, as mutilation or abstraction of books is practically non-existent. It is true that since the establishment of the Library a few books have disappeared and probably been stolen. None of these, however, have been of any value pecuniarily, and it is a very peculiar fact that 11 disappeared during the month which followed the exhibition in the Reading Room of a caution to its frequenters, containing a notice of the imprisonment of a library reader in another part of the country.

Nearly thirty years' experience of the gradual development of this department of the Library has proved conclusively that the books are much more serviceable and are more constantly used than when a written order has to be given for each book.

Two objections are made to this plan :—

1st—That you have no record, or tabulated returns, as to the number of times the books are used, and

2nd—That some of the books are sure to be stolen, and that by this system you offer facilities to this end.

In reply to the first objection it may be stated that the Committee of the Cambridge Free Library are more than satisfied with the results, and that the loss of any tabulated returns is more than compensated for by the additional freedom and facilities afforded to the public in their use.

With regard to the second objection, it is common knowledge and experience that all Libraries lose books by theft, and that undoubtedly this plan involves a greater risk than when the books are under the absolute control of the library staff.

Yet, looking to its advantages and the probable saving of the salary of a junior assistant, the losses from this source have been marvellously few. During twenty years, 1867 to 1887, there were stolen 38 volumes, four of which were returned after a few months' absence; two of these cost under 12s. each, and the others would average not more than 2s. 6d. per volume.

We cannot tell you who stole them, but we can indicate their literary tastes. Two were Bible Students, for one stole a copy of the "New Testament," and another "Haydn's Bible Dictionary" two were Shakespearean Scholars, one of whom selected his "Choice Thoughts," and the other his "Philosophy"; two were taken by visitors interested in University Education, for "The Student's Guide to the University" was selected by one of them, and "The Cambridge University Almanack and Register" was the choice made by the other; one may have been a cleric, for the "Ely Diocesan Calendar" is a book not likely to interest other than an ecclesiastic; and if a fisher of men, then he was imitated by a follower of Old Isaac, who selected "Stray Notes on Fishing." Then in the seventies Penny Readings formed a popular amusement, and five volumes of this entertaining literature were probably used in some country village at our expense.

The system might not be so successful in other Libraries, as there is no doubt that Cambridge has been for many years singularly free from crime of any sort, but possibly it might be tried elsewhere, and the salary of an assistant saved in some library to which such a saving might be of importance.

BOOKS, ANCIENT AND MODERN.[1]

By William E. A. Axon.

The question, "What is a book?" is not quite so easy to answer as may at first be thought. If you look into a dictionary you will see that the first definition of a book is "A number of sheets of paper, or other materials, bound together on edge, blank, written, or printed," a definition which very forcibly reminds one of that saying of Byron's—"A book 's a book although there's nothing in it." When we speak about

[1] An Address delivered in the Deansgate Branch Library, Feb. 15, 1888, as one of a series of lectures delivered at the request of the Manchester Free Libraries Committee.

a book, either ancient or modern, we do not mean it in that sense. By a book we mean a volume containing either information concerning the past history of mankind, concerning the structure of the globe, concerning the processes of science, or concerning some other subject which can be reducible to a mere statement of fact. Then, beyond that, we mean any volume into which a man of thought, or a man of genius has poured the results of his mental struggles or the fancies of his imagination. We mean by books literature in its widest sense, and more particularly, of course, we mean printed literature. Nearly all the words we have relating to literature in its physical aspect are instructive in their way. We say a "book," the word originating from the name of the beech-tree. Our Anglo-Saxon ancestors—or our Saxon ancestors still further back—were in the habit of recording their thoughts upon boards of the beech-tree, thence we get the name of book. We call this place in which we are assembled a library. If we were to put that into ordinary English we should call it a "bookery." The word comes from the word "liber," which in itself means bark—the bark of trees, on which in remote ages the thoughts of men were written. Again, take the best known book in our English language—the Bible. The word Bible simply means a book, and is derived from a Greek word meaning the inner bark of the papyrus plant, upon which the Egyptians wrote their books. Our common word paper, also, is derived in the same way from the name of the papyrus plant. The use of the word, however, in our present-day life, is simply a historic survival. All these terms are examples of the truth that words are fossil history.

The book, as we have it to-day, does not represent the genius or the invention of one man. It represents a long process of evolution and development extending over many centuries. In order that we to-day may be able to read our daily paper or printed book, thousands of men have thought, and worked, and toiled, and struggled, and invented. Not otherwise would the processes that seem very simple now have come into existence at all. There was, of course, a time when man did not write at all. The first attempt would be to draw a picture such as we still see upon the monuments of Egypt, and such as in ruder form existed amongst North American Indians. He who wanted to record anything about a man had to draw the figure in full. This was found to be very irksome, and gradually the picture was shortened, and in place of giving the whole figure of a man some portions were selected to stand as the symbol of the whole. Gradually the idea of portraying, not ideas but sounds, dawned upon mankind, and that was a very great step forward in the history of human progress. If you look to the literature of China you can see the two processes working almost side by side. The Chinese have not an alphabet; they aim in the main at representing ideas by conventional forms which in the older writings were actual pictures. If they want to say a man, they draw a shortened figure of a man. If they want to name some particular animal, they draw that which once was a picture of that animal, but which by process of writing has now become merely a formal symbol. Very many centuries must have elapsed before we arrived at the sweet simplicity of A B C. The clay libraries of Assyria represent literature in the ages before the alphabet was invented. Books from them may be seen in our British Museum of to-day. These books were something very different indeed to what we think of under that name at the present time. They were written in clay (the words representing syllables of the Assyrian language) with a sharp-pointed stick or stylus, thus giving that peculiar appearance to the characters which has gained them the

name of cuneiform or arrow-headed. The clay after being written upon was baked and made into books. These have been found to be of all possible kinds,—decrees of the kings, contracts at law, documents respecting the sale of slaves; a long series representing banking transactions stretching over a number of generations; historical and scientific records; religious legends,—in fact there is every possible variety of literature. There exists amongst them a catalogue of the books that were contained in the public library which the king, Assur-ban-ipal, "dedicated for the instruction of his people." Thus in the far-off time, when the Assyrian Empire was at its height, they had then, as we have to-day, national public libraries for the instruction and the benefit of the people at large. After the clay libraries of Assyria we have in the Classical Period books written by hand, upon papyrus or parchment. As printing was unknown, every copy of a book had to be written separately. At the present time 100, 500, 1000, or a number of thousands of copies can be printed off after the setting of the type, but before the invention of printing, every copy of every book had to be separately written from the first page to the last. That labour necessarily restricted the circulation of literature, and prevented its diffusion amongst the entire masses of the people. In the Middle Ages there was a different cause at work. Parchment became exceedingly scarce, paper was unknown; and in many cases the writings of the great classical authors of antiquity were erased, the writing rubbed out and further writings were written across the parchment. The famine of parchment was very detrimental indeed to the best interests of literature. In Assyria and in Greece and Rome, the invention of printing seems to have been very nearly approached. There are some Assyrian stamps of classical ages which could actually now be covered with a coating of printer's ink and used as a printer's stamp; and yet whilst they came so near to the invention of printing, they never actually touched it at all. Perhaps one reason of this was that in the Classical Ages at all events books were not absolutely dear, to the restricted class who could read and who had opportunities for reading. Very largely books were the produce of slave labour. It is an extraordinary fact that in Rome many of the best educated scribes were slaves, some of whom afterwards became the freedmen of their employers. One very notable name in this connection is that of Marcus Tullius Tiro, freedman of Cicero. It is believed that to Tiro we owe the first beginnings of that art of short-hand, which by successive improvements through many generations, plays a very important part in the public life of this country. The most famous collection of books in the Classical Ages was that of the library, or rather libraries of Alexandria, the destruction of which has often been lamented, because there then perished many master pieces of classical learning and genius. The highest number of books that have ever been named as stored in the libraries of Alexandria was 700,000, and the chances are that at different times in the history of that famous city there was one library which at its greatest height numbered 400,000 volumes, and another at another period 300,000. That represents the highest tidemark of public libraries in the Classical Ages. But a book in those days was a very different thing from the book of to-day. If you take a copy of our English Bible you may find it in one volume, but if you count the number of separate books that it contains you will find between sixty and seventy. In the library of Alexandria, each of those books would have been written upon a separate roll, wound round a stick. Each would have formed one in the 700,000 volumes. Some years ago I took the trouble to make a careful estimate of the relative extent of ancient and of modern books. Most of you know "Chambers' Encyclopaedia," which is an

exceedingly useful work of reference. One volume of "Chambers" is equal to about eighty-five volumes such as would be contained in the library of Alexandria, so that if you imagine a library containing about 8000 or 9000 volumes of the size of the Cyclopaedia volumes, you will then know the real extent of the largest, the most celebrated, and the most lamented of all the great libraries of antiquity. Amongst the ruins of the buried city of Pompeii there were only 1696 books found, which shows that books were not widely diffused among the population in ancient Pompeii. The number of books there found would be equal to some 40 or 50 books such as we have at the present day.

We now come to the great change which was wrought by the invention of printing. Before the first printing press was started, books were necessarily luxuries. They were too dear, not only for the poor, but for any but the richest to buy. In the year 1274, we are told that an English Bible cost £30. to buy, at the time when the wages of a labouring man were 1½d. per day. There was not much possibility of a working man of those days getting great access to literature. Printing made a great change in that respect. It made books cheaper, and their diffusion had a reflex action. In the Middle Ages the governing classes—the soldiers and the nobles—despised alike books and literature. Amongst the wealthiest and the noblest in the land there were many who had not even the elementary power of either reading or writing. Learning was left for the priests, and was thought unworthy of the attention of those who had to play a great part in the work of the world. Printing made a very great difference in that respect; books became cheaper and were more widely diffused, until now people are sometimes rather afraid that the world is going to be crushed beneath the yearly, daily and even hourly accumulating mass of literature. It has been estimated that at the present time the number of books in the world is something like 10,000,000 volumes. That is a very big figure, but it represents the product of the presses of the world since the invention of printing. It is quite clear that such an immense mass of literature cannot be gathered together at any particular spot. The British Museum, which is now in the very first rank of the great libraries of the world, contains probably, speaking roughly, about 1,500,000 volumes; and the Manchester Free Libraries contain about 186,000 volumes. If we restrict ourselves for a moment to English literature alone, I do not think it is an over-estimate to say that the number of books written by the English-speaking writers will not fall far short, if anything short, of 500,000 books —not copies of books. We are adding to this every year. Last year the English press sent forth something like 5,000 new volumes, and adding this number to the 10,000,000 already existing, it will at least give you some idea of what an immense field of investigation and of interest there is in literature for all who care to study it.

Having tried to frighten you by this picture of the immensity of printed literature, let me turn a little to the other side and shew how much reading can be done by an individual. How many books have you or I read in our life-time? How many can we read in our life-time? How long would it take a person to read the books that are at his command in this library? You will find that the immensity of the ground is very greatly out of proportion to our power of covering it. We will take the Reference Library with its 85,000 volumes and make a liberal allowance that 10,000 of those are duplicate works. If we took in reading for any solid purpose ten minutes over a page, and say that on an average a volume contains 300 pages, and that a man reads ten hours a day—I believe in the ten hours bill in the library as well as in the workshop—

even then it would take a man 960 years to read the books that he will find on the shelves of the Reference Library to-night. If we had lived before the Flood, this might have been practicable, but we cannot do it now-a-days. We cannot, then, read everything; we can, indeed, only read a very small portion of what has been written; and therefore it will be to our advantage that we select our reading as carefully as we can. It is no use wasting time on bad books, whilst there are good books remaining unread; and the ultimate reason of every good book is, that it should be read and should influence the mind, the heart, and the conduct of those who read it. There is then an absolute necessity for selection; but how that selection has to be made depends upon the object with which we read. It is an old distinction drawn in very forcible terms by our great Manchester writer, Thomas de Quincey, between what he called "the literature of fact and the literature of power." There are books that are intended simply to give us information, and there are others that are intended to influence our lives, to mould our thoughts, and to direct our aspirations. Both these functions are fulfilled by a public library such as that in which we are assembled to-night. More particularly an institution like the Reference Library is intended to supply information, and this it does upon a great variety of topics. For instance, there is some ingenious artizan who, by the daily experience of his own work sees, as he thinks, the possibility of a better process of doing some portion of that work. He wants to have the benefit of his own brainwork, and in that rightful desire we shall all sympathise. If the invention is a useful one, it can be patented and it may become a source of wealth to the individual who has thus helped to create a new industry, or to improve one already in existence. He goes to the Reference Library, and by examining the specifications of patents and the books relating to the mechanical arts, he finds out whether he has been anticipated or not. The presence of those specifications and of the books which illustrate them in our Reference Library, may save a working man from heartbreak and ruin, for it very often happens that the inventor finds that his invention *has* been anticipated; of course he could get a patent for his invention however old the process, but he would have lost all the time and all the ill spared money that he had invested in the venture. Another way in which the Institution is of benefit is, that those who are engaged in commerce or industry may learn not merely the rule of thumb, but the scientific principles that underlie the processes by which they gain their daily bread. That not only increases the money value, the wage-earning power of the man; but it gives him a new intellectual pleasure.

(*To be continued.*)

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

JUNE MONTHLY MEETING.

THE June Monthly Meeting was held at Gray's Inn Library on Friday, June 1st, at 7.30 p.m., Mr. Alderman Johnson in the Chair. It was announced that Mr. John Ogilvie, Librarian, Public Library, Arbroath, had joined the Association. Mr. Faux and Mr. N. E. Jauralde were elected members. Mr. E. C. Thomas read a Paper "Was Richard De Bury an Impostor?" After a discussion, a vote of thanks was passed to the reader of the Paper.

THE Monthly Meetings have been suspended during the summer months.

AT the meeting of Council on June 1st, Dr. R. Garnett was elected a Vice-President, and Mr. L. Inkster, Librarian, of the Free Libraries, Battersea, was elected of the Council.

A letter was also read from Mr. W. H. Overall, tendering his resignation on the ground of ill health; but the Council resolved that Mr. Overall be requested not to press his resignation.

The date of September 4th was definitely fixed for the Annual Meeting at Glasgow, and the arrangements proposed by the local committee were approved.

Library Notes and News.

ALLOA.—Through the liberality of Mr. H. Thomson Paton, who has contributed £1,000 towards the purchase of books, it is hoped that the committee will be able to open the new Free Library with at least 7,000 volumes.

BELFAST.—The *Belfast News* of May 16 contains an account of a conversazione held at the Ulster Hall in commemoration of the centenary of the Belfast Library.

BOLTON.—The Bolton Library Committee have decided to erect a new library on the Town Hall Square, at a cost of £4,000.

BRIGHTON.—It has been arranged that the superintendence of the Free Library shall be severed from the Fine Art Gallery and Museum. Mr. Lomax will now undertake the management of the latter, and a Librarian is to be appointed for the Free Library.

CARDIFF.—Owing to the rapid growth of the Free Library it has become necessary to obtain more accommodation. It is undecided yet whether to enlarge the present library, or by means of branch libraries and reading rooms to remove the present pressure from the parent institution. A number of manuscripts belonging to the late Mr. John Howells, together with a collection of curios, have been presented by the trustees of the late Mr. Howells to the Free Library. Mr. Howells was a well-known local antiquary.

DONCASTER.—The Town Council have accepted a tender for the erection of a new Free Library and School of Art, at a cost of £3,370. The foundation stone was laid on June 21 by the Mayor.

FLEETWOOD.—The lending department of the Free Library has been formally opened by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. F. Sheed.

GLOSSOP.—At a meeting of ratepayers held in the Town Hall on May 15, it was decided by a large majority to adopt the Libraries Acts.

GRANGEMOUTH.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised to pay half the cost (£900) of the new Free Library.

HANLEY.—Mr. A. J. Millward of Manchester has been appointed Librarian at the Free Library, in succession to Mr. W. A. Taylor.

HASTINGS.—Lord Brassey, on June 16, formally presented to the town of Hastings the School of Art Building and Reference Library, the estimated value of the gift being £15,000. In replying to the toast of his health, Lord Brassey said the building could be utilised, if deemed advisable, as a Free Library.

HINCKLEY.—A Free Library and Reading Room was opened on May 16 by the Duchess of Rutland. The building itself was presented by Messrs. Atkins, and cost £1,500.

HOLLINWOOD.—On May 5 the Free Library and Reading Room were opened to the public. The buildings have been presented to the inhabitants by Messrs. Butterworth and Murgatroyd, and were opened by Mr. Edwin Stansfield.

HULL.—The question of the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts has for the fourth time been raised in Hull. A committee has been formed, and several meetings in support of the movement have been held. A deputation on July 6 waited on the Mayor, asking him to issue voting papers on the subject, and at a meeting of the Town Council a resolution in support was moved, and carried by a majority of five. The majority against the Acts when the poll was last taken in 1882 was 1,677.

LIVERPOOL.—The Museum Committee of Liverpool has approved plans for a new Free Library and Reading Room to be erected in Upper Parliament Street in place of the present South Lending Library, and also plans for the proposed Library in Kensington Fields.

LIVERPOOL.—The third Quarterly Meeting of the Mersey District Librarians' Association was held on Monday the 18th of June, at the Free Library, William Brown Street, under the Presidency of Mr. Cowell, the Librarian. The members present represented the Free Libraries of Birkenhead, Bootle, Chester, Oldham, St. Helens, Stockport, Runcorn, Warrington, and Widnes, the last named being a lady (Miss Procter). Short papers were read by Mr. Ogle of the Bootle Library, and Mr. Formby of the Liverpool Library, entitled respectively "A Suggestion as to Cataloguing Novels," and "Free Library Donations and other Aids to the Rate," interesting discussions taking place at the close of each. It is intended to continue these Meetings, which were originated by Mr. Charles Madeley of the Warrington Free Library in November, 1887, at intervals of three months, the next being arranged to take place at Birkenhead in October.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—The Commissioners for these Libraries are energetically carrying out the Libraries Acts in the parish. In their annual report it is stated that they have decided upon establishing a central Library and two branches. The Committee have secured a site, and plans are under consideration for the central Library on Lavender Hill, where a Museum and Technical School are also to be erected, if the public respond to the appeal for subscriptions which has been made. They have also secured for a branch Library a site adjoining the Albert Palace. Two reading-rooms are already open to the public.

LONDON: BERMONDSEY. — The Bermondsey Vestry, after receiving a deputation on the subject, have decided by a majority of one, to put in force the Libraries Acts, which were adopted in October, 1887.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—At a meeting held on July 8, the Camberwell Vestry decided to accept the offer of Mr. G. Livesey, to provide a Free Library in the Old Kent Road, on the condition that the Vestry takes up the question of Free Libraries in the parish. It was determined to take a poll of the parish under the Acts, the rate not to exceed one halfpenny in the pound. It is suggested that in addition to the Old Kent Road Library three other Libraries should be established.

LONDON: CHELSEA. — The Chelsea Public Library Commissioners have finally decided to acquire the site in Manresa Road, and will proceed forthwith to secure the land for the purpose of the erection of the new Library buildings. Mr. Alfred B. Robinson, sub-Librarian of the Richmond

Free Library, has been appointed first assistant in the Central Free Libraries.

LONDON: DEPTFORD.—Two meetings were held in Deptford, on May 14 and 15, at both of which the proposals pledging the meeting to aid the Free Library movement were unanimously carried.

The eighteenth annual meeting of Messrs. F. Braby & Co.'s Library and Club was held at the Victoria Works on June 2nd, Mr. F. Braby in the chair. After tea addresses were delivered by members of the firm, and by Rev. Dr. Cundy, Prof. Lambert, Mr. J. Gilburt, and others.

LONDON: GUILDHALL.—In the Court of Common Council a report has been brought up on the duties and emoluments of the office of librarian, vacant by the death of Wm. Henry Overall, and recommending that the salary be £600 per annum, and that the committee be instructed to fill up the vacancy. An amendment, moving that the vacancy be filled up by the Court and not by the Committee, was lost by 18 votes.

LONDON: HAMMERSMITH.—A deputation from Hammersmith was on May 31 introduced by Major Goldsworthy, M.P., to Mr. Anstie, Q.C., to ask for a share of the City Parochial Charities Fund. Mr. Anstie said the Commissioners had refused all applications of this kind, and suggested that those interested in Free Libraries should try and do away with the present restrictions, so as to enable two or more parishes to combine. The Metropolitan Board have consented to allow the Commissioners to occupy the mansion of Ravenscourt Park for the purposes of a Free Library, at a nominal rental. A library will therefore probably be opened at an early date.

LONDON: KENSINGTON.—The Library Commissioners propose taking premises near Gloucester Road to form a temporary Branch Library, and have applied to the Local Government Board for permission to do so.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—It was decided some time ago to have five Libraries in this large Parish, involving a cost of £38,000. Owing to the liberality of some of the inhabitants, who have already subscribed £28,000, three out of the five required are now accomplished facts, and it is hoped that the remainder of the sum will soon be subscribed.

LONDON: PADDINGTON.—On July 9th the Paddington Free Library which has been established by voluntary contributions, was opened to the public; the Lord Chief Justice and Lady Coleridge performing the ceremony. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. F. Moss who has been mainly concerned in establishing the Library. Mr. A. Caddie has been appointed librarian.

LONDON: PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Owing to the death of the German Emperor, the formal opening of the Library by the Duchess of Albany, and the address by Mr. John Morley on "Books and Reading" have been indefinitely postponed. The Library was informally opened on June 17th. Of the 250,000 volumes for which the Library contains room only 10,000 have been obtained. The Library itself is a remarkably fine building and has been erected at a cost of £10,000.

LONDON: PLUMSTEAD.—On May 26th the poll on the question of the adoption of the Acts in Plumstead was taken. The votes were—for, 1,353, and against, 2,988; majority against, 1,635. At the poll taken in April, 1887, the majority against was 1,944.

LONDON: WEST HAM.—Two meetings were held in different parts of this parish on May 19th to advocate the adoption of the Libraries Acts; in each instance, however, the proposal was negatived by a large majority.

LONDON: WESTMINSTER.—A movement is on foot in Westminster to open branch reading rooms in connection with the Free Library in Great Smith Street.

LONDON: WHITECHAPEL.—A resolution favourable to the establishment of a Free Library was on July 9 carried, with only one dissentient, by the District Board of Works.

LONDON: WOOLWICH.—The poll on the Free Libraries Acts was declared on May 31, when the numbers were:—Noes, 2,098; ayes, 766; majority against, 1,332. Last year's poll showed a majority against of 1,416. At a meeting of the Vestry a resolution was carried to the effect that where a poll for a public library resulted

in a majority of two to one against it, there ought to be no other poll on the question for three years. A copy of the resolution has been sent to the member for the Borough, requesting him to embody it in the Bill now before Parliament.

LUTON.—The result of the recent poll shows that Luton has rejected the Libraries Acts by a majority of nearly 3 to 1. The figures were 992 for, and 2,856 against.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Henry Boddington has presented a collection of 400 volumes to the Manchester Free Libraries.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME.—The foundation stone of new Municipal Buildings to include a Free Library was laid on July 6th. Mr. Coghill, who has given £1,000 towards the Library, performed the ceremony.

NORWICH. — The Committee of this Library are anxious to establish a branch in connection with the Elementary Schools in the City. For this purpose about £300 is required, of which £200 has already been subscribed.

NOTTINGHAM.—Mr. W. Scriven, Librarian of the Basford branch of the Nottingham Free Public Libraries, has resigned his position, and will be succeeded by Mr. Pritchard, attendant at the Old Basford Reading Room.

The Library of the Men's Sunday Morning Institute (which now meets at the University College) is about to be considerably augmented, and Mr. Briscoe has consented to compile a new catalogue for the Institute, of which he is a teacher.

The Central Free Public Library has been closed for several weeks, and will not be re-opened until about the end of September. The timber beams are being removed and steel girders substituted.

OLDBURY.—A public meeting of ratepayers was held in the Public Hall on July 9, when it was unanimously decided to adopt the Libraries Acts. It is estimated that the penny rate will yield £210 per annum.

ROCHESTER.—The Free Library, which has been erected largely by public subscription, was opened on May 19.

SALFORD. — On July 4 the Salford Town Council, by a vote of 25 to 12, decided to open the several libraries on Sunday. 232 volumes have been presented to the Free Library by Mr. Henry Boddington.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The committee have secured temporary premises for the Free Library, and commenced their tenancy on June 24. The committee have decided to appoint a librarian, at a salary of £120 per annum.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—After being open for five years the Free Library has been closed on Sundays, because, in the opinion of the committee, the number of readers did not justify the expenditure.

WALSALL.—In accordance with a resolution of the Town Council, the Free Libraries at Walsall and Bloxwich were opened on Sunday July 1.

WELSHPOOL.—On June 1 a Free Library, Museum, and School of Art was opened by the Mayor. The library at present contains about 7,000 volumes. The buildings are the gift of the Powys Land Club.

We regret to have to record the death of Mr. W. H. Overall, Librarian to the Corporation of London, and a Member of our Council, after a long illness. We hope to give an obituary notice of Mr. Overall in our next issue.

The announcement that Mr. Bond had resigned the principal librarianship was received with surprise by many and with regret by everybody, as it was hoped that he would long continue to control the fortunes of the Museum, and to continue the series of useful and liberal changes which have marked his tenure of office. The names of Mr. Bullen, Mr. Thompson, Dr. Garnett and Mr. Colvin are mentioned in connection with the vacancy.

It is proposed to commemorate the bicentenary of Pope's birth at Twickenham, where he lived for twenty-six years and where he died. The commemoration will include a water pageant, a loan collection, to be formed of relics, portraits, autographs and other curios, together with engravings of old Twickenham; and the Committee also hope to found a permanent Popeian collection to be established in the Twickenham Free Library. Mr. H. R. Tedder is the Hon. London Secretary.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Borough of Portsmouth Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending Department. New Edition. Compiled by Tweed D. A. Jewers, Borough Librarian. Portsmouth, 1888. La. 8vo, pp. ix., 256.

An index-catalogue of nearly 15,000 vols., with notes of contents of collectaneous and periodical works. There are far too many misprints, and the compiler's notes are not always valuable.

Burgh of Aberdeen. Report by the Public Library Committee, 1886-87. Aberdeen, 1887. 8vo, p. 27. Price 1d.

The number of vols. in the Lending Library is 17,738, of which 1,910 were added during the year, a large proportion being gifts. The question of a Reference Library is still in abeyance. The issues were 232,201, the proportion of fiction being 56·88 per cent. 889 vols. were bound at an average cost of 1s. 3d., and 5,418 vols. were treated by the library binder on the premises. The number of visits to the Reading-room is estimated at over 1,400 daily. The income for the year, including balances, was £2,179. 13s. 7d., the expenditure £2,428. 15s. 8d.

Bootle. The First General Report of the Free Library and Museum Committee. Feb. 9, 1887-March 24, 1888. . . . Liverpool. 8vo, pp. 21.

"The Act" was adopted at Bootle, March 19, 1884. The foundation stone of the Library and Museum was laid Nov. 4, 1885, the building costing about £9,000. The Earl of Derby gave £250. towards the purchase of a Natural History Collection, and the Town Council granted £1,377. A library of 1,667 vols. was presented. The Institution was publicly opened June 22, 1887. Two Art Exhibitions have been held and Science Classes formed. The Library consists of 4,808 vols. 9,354 vols. were issued. The daily average attendance in the Museum was 183, and in the Reading-room 666.

Fifty-fourth Annual Report of the Burnley Mechanics' Institute. . . . Burnley, 1888. 8vo, pp. 31.

The total number of members of Institution and Exchange was 1,896, being a small decrease. The number of vols. in the Library is 14,058, of which 576 were added during the year. The issues showed a slight increase. The expenditure was £2,019. 2s. 11d., leaving a balance in hand of £86. 4s. 1d. Considerable structural alterations are being made, and it is proposed to erect an additional building at a cost of £6,000., of which £2,700. has been promised.

Wigan. Free Public Library. Tenth Annual Report of the Librarian. March, 1888. 8vo, pp. 22.

The Library contains 32,000 vols.—13,184 in the Reference Library, and 9,504 in the Lending—an increase during the year of 1,573. In the Reference Library there were 13,184 vols. consulted, and the issues from the Lending Library were 67,920 vols.—a material increase on the issues of the previous year. The Sunday average attendances were under 200. 466 borrowers' tickets were issued. A great want of accommodation for readers is recorded. Free Lectures were given during the period covered by this report.

Northwich. Brunner Free Public Library and Museum. Second Annual Report . . . on the year 1887. 8vo, pp. 12.

The public interest in the Libraries continues as strong and earnest as ever, and the Committee are highly gratified with the results. There are 5,635 vols. in the Lending Library, and 1,103 in the Reference Library. Two vols. were lost during the year. The daily average issue was 181 vols. The daily average attendance in the Reading Room was about 300. More accommodation is required. The Museum is well filled, and contains a collection of specimens of salt. An Art Exhibition was held. The year's expenditure amounted to £338. Miss E. Chambers is Librarian.

Yarmouth. The Second Annual Report of the Free Library Committee of the Borough of Great Yarmouth, 1887-88. 8vo, pp. 22.

"The remarkable success which attended the working of the Free Library during the first eleven months of his existence" necessitated the provision of additional accommodation. The new premises will be completed shortly. A branch was established during the year. The Libraries now contain 6,278 vols. The year's issues were 107,831 vols., against 77,095 in 1886-7. More books and funds are required. There are 3,278 borrowers. The Reading Room is frequently crowded, and good order is observed. The penny rate realised £650.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Catalogue of the London Library, St. James's Square, London . . . . by Robert Harrison. Fifth edition. La. 8vo, 2 vols., pp. xvi., 1161; xliv., 463.

It is thirteen years since the last edition of this catalogue was produced, and the accessions in that period have necessitated the breaking up of the stout volume of the catalogue into two. This has been done in the most convenient way by separating the useful summaries of collectaneous works and the subject-index, which lend this catalogue a special value, into a second volume. In its new form Mr. Harrison's catalogue will continue to be a most useful handbook of reference to the literary worker, and should find, like its predecessor, an easily accessible place in every library that can afford it. The preface contains a brief history of the Library, and to the second volume is prefixed a list of members of the library. We hope that Mr. Harrison may live to superintend another edition of the book now so closely associated with his name.

Catalogue of the Books in the Library of the Honorable Society of Gray's Inn . . . . compiled under the direction of His Honour Judge Russell, Q.C., Master of the Library, by W. R. Douthwaite, Librarian. London, 1888. 8vo, pp. viii., 720.

This handsomely printed and portly volume forms at once the catalogue of an important collection and of the leading works on the subjects to which that collection is primarily devoted. Its value for both purposes is materially increased by the very full and excellent index of subjects. The increased bulk of the present catalogue as compared with that issued in 1872 is mainly explained by the very large number of cross-references given in this present recension. The whole work does honour to the Benchers, who have not hesitated to incur an expense so essential to the proper usefulness of their collection of books and to those more intimately concerned in the task of its production.

Parish Lending Libraries: How to manage and keep them up, with a List of Books. By Caroline M. Hallett. London: Walter Smith & Innes, 1888. 8vo, pp. 75. Price 1s. 6d.

A pleasantly written little book containing useful suggestions for the economical management of parish and village libraries—"the result of personal experience."

The new "Bibliographical Contributions" from the Library of Harvard are (No. 30) "Shelley's Skylark, a facsimile of the original manuscript, with a note on other manuscripts of Shelley in Harvard College Library," and (No. 31) "A Supplemental List of Works on North American Kings."

The May number of the *Harvard University Bulletin* continues the Calendar of the Sparks MSS. and the Catalogue of the Dante Collections of Harvard College and Boston Public Libraries.

The July number of the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* contains amongst other articles "Oriental Literature on the Discovery of America," by J. Gildemeister, and "Examen des principaux travaux bibliographiques publiés en Belgique en 1887," by Victor Chauvin.

We have received a reprint of the Paper read before the Manchester Statistical Society, by Mr. W. R. Credland, on "The Free Library Movement in Manchester" (Manchester: John Heywood).

Mr. J. P. Briscoe has printed 50 copies of two "Contributions towards the Bibliography of Nottinghamshire," No. 1 being a list of works on the *History* and *Topography* of the county in the Nottingham Free Public Reference Library, and No. 2 a list of works on *Science* on the same collection.

Mr. W. H. J. Weale has established a new magazine, *The Ecclesiologist*, which is very tastefully printed by Messrs. J. Davy & Sons. The first number contains the first instalment of a "Bibliographia Liturgica."

We note that in No. 90 of his Rough Lists (June, 1888) Mr. Bernard Quaritch repeats his curious saying that: "The keeping of a large collection of books in order, especially when for sale, requires the same qualities necessary to a good military commander-in-chief."

The more recent contributions to the "Great Writers" series are Burns, Scott, Emerson (by Dr. R. Garnett), and Victor Hugo.

In the *Athenæum* of June 9 Chancellor Christie corrects a current misapprehension as to the relation between the *Amatus Fornacius* and the *Alcibiade Fanciullo*. There is really nothing in common between them, and the *Amatus* is "a dull and stupid piece of pedantry," nor is it "of great rarity or pecuniary value."

Correspondence.

Anonymous Books.

Who are the writers of the following anonymous works:—Hidden Depths, Addie's Husband, American Political Ideas, Belt and Spur, Year with the Birds, Crystal Age, St. Bernard's, City in the Sea, Dame Durden, Francis and Frances, Fragoletta, Like Dian's Kiss, One and a Half in Norway, Old Love or the New, Vivienne, Woman's Love Story? B.

Popular Periodicals.

In the Report of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, for 1887, an interesting statement is made as to the periodicals most in reading there. The magazine tables were carefully examined *one hundred* times, and the periodicals in the hands of readers were noted. The following head the list, the number appended showing the number of times out of 100, each periodical was found in reading:—People's Friend (97), Graphic (95), Pictorial World (93), Scottish Knights (93), Harper's Weekly (New York) (93), Harper's Monthly (91), Illustrated London News (91), Era (90), Chambers' Journal (89), Broad Arrow (88), Truth (86), Vanity Fair (86), Good Words (84), Scottish Umpire (83), Scottish Athletic Journal (82), Scribner's Magazine (81), Century Magazine (80), Blackwood's Magazine (80). I think perhaps the most striking feature in this list is the great popularity now enjoyed in public reading rooms by American periodicals. R. R.

GLASGOW MEETING.

The local preparations for the Annual Meeting at Glasgow on the 4th September are in a forward state, and those members who have not yet announced to Mr. Barrett their intention to attend should do so without delay. A very large muster of our members is expected, and it is only fair to the Local Committee to give them ample notice of the attendance they may expect.

The Programme has not yet been finally approved, but will probably be as follows:—

Tuesday.—Papers. At 1.30 Lunch. Drive to Cathedral and Visits to Libraries. In the evening, Conversazione, given by the Lord Provost and Town Council.

Wednesday.—Papers. Lunch. Drive to University, where the members will be received by the Professors. Hunterian Museum. Evening, Exhibition.

Thursday.—Papers. Lunch. Excursion to Ayr (Burns' Cottage, &c.). Dinner.

Friday.—A Water Excursion to see the River and Firth.

Any person not already a member of the Association may, if actually engaged in library work, become so on payment of the entrance fee of 10s. 6d. and the annual subscription of 10s. 6d., which will entitle him to receive the Proceedings and the *Library Chronicle.* If not engaged in library administration, he can be proposed by the Council for immediate election at the Glasgow Meeting.

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The Library Chronicle.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT GLASGOW.

THIS year has been a notable one to the dwellers on the Clyde. It rarely falls to the lot of any city—even of the Capital—to entertain in one year so many and such varied guests as have within the last few months hastened from North, South, East and West, to enjoy the hospitality of St. Mungo. But to none was a heartier welcome offered than to the Library Association of the United Kingdom; and by none was that kindly hospitality more warmly appreciated than by those members of the Association who were privileged to partake of it.

We have reason to know that the library folk were not the only visitors whose eyes were opened in agreeable surprise by what they saw at Glasgow. Our hosts must forgive us, and blame their own modesty, if till now the ideal Glasgow of the Southron has been mentally summed-up in a phrase—"Thriving city of pushing business men —very smoky, very dirty and always wet." With such a notion of our destination, warmed up a little by the fact that Corporation and University had joined to welcome us, we were not prepared to find ourselves in a city (modestly styled by its dwellers "no mean city"), better described as a capital, opulent and handsome, and possessing a University of which any country in the world might well be proud. And, as the whole of our week was gloriously fine, let us speak of a climate as we find it.

Our hosts placed at our disposal the Merchants' House, and in the handsome hall of that building the Eleventh Annual Meeting was opened by the President, Professor William P. Dickson, D.D., LL.D., Curator of the University Library, on Tuesday morning, September 4th, at ten o'clock.

FIRST DAY.

The first act of the President, on taking the Chair, was to introduce the Lord Provost (Sir James King, Bart.), who addressed the Meeting as follows:—

"Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—It is with great pleasure that I avail myself of the opportunity afforded me of welcoming the Library Association of the United Kingdom to our city of Glasgow. We were, as a Corporation, sharers in the invitation which was addressed to you, and which you were so good as to accept; and I hope that through the arrangements which have been made by the enthusiastic local office-bearers, you will find very much to interest you in our city. It has certainly been a labour of love on the part of those gentlemen, and, as I think there are few bonds that

bind more quickly or more closely than the love of books, I am sure that you will be as a band of brothers during your stay in Glasgow. Your Association is not an old one, but during the short period—about ten years I understand—of its existence you have had important and interesting meetings; and, I am quite sure, having regard to the variety and importance and far-reaching objects of your Association, that much interesting work must have been done. As you are aware, all the learned bodies of Glasgow have opened their libraries for your inspection, and our modest collections as a Corporation—the chief one of which (the Mitchell Library) was only begun to be formed about the time of the inauguration of your Association, but which during these few years has grown very rapidly, and in some respects has become a library of no mean interest—will also be open for your inspection. I trust also that your visit to the University, with its treasures both in its library and in its museum, will repay you; and altogether I hope that, with the addition of our Exhibition, you may find quite enough to occupy the few days which you are able to afford to us in Glasgow. I do not know that we stand very high in point of wide-spread interest in literature, but I am quite sure that the labours of our School Board are rapidly tending to develop among the younger members of our community a taste and a love of books; and that taste is one which not only brings pleasure, but brings profit and exalts a nation. I do not think it is necessary to say anything more. I conclude, as I began, by bidding you a very hearty welcome to Glasgow."

The President then delivered his Address, which appears as a separate paper at page 103.

Mr. R. C. Christie (Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester), in rising to move a vote of thanks for the President's Address, said he would in the first place say a word of thanks on behalf of the society to the Lord Provost for the welcome he had given to the Association that day. The President had spoken of their visit to Glasgow, as though Glasgow was not so interesting a place for the librarians to visit as some other places; but for his own part he could say—and he was sure it would be approved of by all those present—they would all find much to interest them in Glasgow. It was a city which possessed a University of great antiquity, and of great importance in the history of learning and science; it was not merely a place of the past, but as the second city of the Empire, Glasgow united the past with the present in a remarkable manner; and there was much to be hoped for in the future. The President had already said the citizens were confident of possessing a Free Library worthy of itself in the near future. The President had dealt with a very large number of topics. He had dealt very happily with almost every topic of practical interest to the librarian. The speaker desired to express his personal admiration for the paper which the President had read, and to ask for a very hearty vote of thanks to him.

Sir Michael Connal had great pleasure in seconding the proposal made by the Chancellor. Whilst Glasgow people might not claim for themselves too much, yet at the same time they might claim in some measure to be the cradle of popular education. As far back as 1790 or 1797, when Dr. Anderson, the founder of Anderson's College, died, his trustees looked out for a suitable professor to undertake the duties which, by his will, were imposed upon the community of Glasgow—the erection of an institution for popular education in science; and they were fortunate in finding a young man, who was then on the point of leaving for America, having packed up all his philosophical instruments, and who, in the district around Manchester, had

created quite a *furore* by the few lectures he had delivered. The trustees heard of this young man—Dr. Garnett, from whom Glasgow had borrowed the name of Garnett Hill, his residence being where the old Observatory stood. The present trustees were now doing a good work under the School Board, and they had, attending their evening classes—the largest evening classes throughout the country—about 7,000 persons.

The vote was cordially agreed to, and briefly acknowledged by the President.

It was announced that the American Library Association had appointed Professor R. C. Davis, and the Rev. E. C. Richardson, as delegates to the Glasgow meeting, but that Professor Davis had been obliged to return to America. Mr. Richardson however was present and was formally welcomed by the President.

The President called upon the Hon. Sec. to read the names of candidates proposed by the Council for immediate election. The list is as follows:—Dr. C. Annandale, Glasgow; Mr. Ralph Betley, Wigan; Mr. Richard Brown, Glasgow; Bailie Colquhoun, Glasgow; The Very Rev. Robert Conlan, Dublin; Dr. D. W. Costine, Liverpool; Professor Ferguson, Glasgow; Rev. F. H. Fisher, Vicar of Fulham; Councillor Robert Graham, Glasgow; Mr. Thomas Guille, Jurat of the Guernsey Royal Courts; Councillor Robert Halliwell, Wigan; Mr. R. Heron, Dublin; Mr. Alderman Howard, Mayor of Bootle; Mr. Councillor James Hoy, Manchester; Mr. Thomas A. Mathieson, Glasgow; Colonel Nugent, Dublin; Mr. Alderman James Smith, Wigan.

The first paper entitled "Elzevir Bibliography," was read by Mr. Chancellor Christie. Mr. Thomas said the paper was of great value, and would be welcomed in the pages of the *Chronicle*. Busy librarians highly appreciated work of this kind, which few of them could find time to do for themselves.

Mr. R. Brown (Hon. Sec. of the Libraries Promotion Association), followed with a narrative of the efforts that have been made to secure the adoption of the Acts in Glasgow.

Mr. Barrett's paper, "Sketch of a Public Library Establishment for Glasgow, with some remarks on the Mitchell Library," was listened to with great interest; and discussion having been invited—Mr. Robert Harrison expressed his dismay at the thought of preserving *everything* in the shape of literature in the proposed library. It was said that even "Bradshaw" found a place in the British Museum: he hoped this was not the case, for if it were it would be impossible to say where they should stop.

Ex-Preceptor William Wilson (Glasgow) said he felt deeply humiliated to think that this so-called most intelligent city had twice, by very large majorities, refused the great benefit of the Public Libraries Acts. It was one of those things no one could understand. When they considered for one moment that one half of the rate-payers in the city of Glasgow were living in houses of £10. of rental and under, it was simply amazing that these men, by their votes, should overthrow the wondrous scheme that has been adopted in so many centres of population. Half of the others, again, were living in houses of six rooms and under, and all these men and women would have the benefit of this library. One half of what some of those men spent for a drink of ale and a good smoke would get the benefit of all those great books in a free library, and he did not know how to account for it at all. Mr. Brown in his paper had entered into minute details of the overthrow of the scheme, which he, Mr. Wilson, would not have read for the world. Men who are defeated in battle in doing their very best do not generally tell everything. The parties

carrying on this war on the last two occasions really did their very best, and there was not a man in Glasgow who could have given greater attention to this matter, in all its details, than Mr. Brown. He hoped the time was not far distant when the Association would honour them again with their presence in Glasgow, and he hoped they should then not have to hang their flags in a sort of drooping position, but from the house tops, after having passed a triumphant vote in favour of the Libraries Acts. While Mr. Harrison might differ from Mr. Barrett in reference to the pamphlet question he believed in the main Mr. Barrett was right. They did not put "Bradshaw" and things of that sort into our libraries because there was not room for them; but he was not sure that "Bradshaw," say a hundred years hence, would not be of very great interest, if only to let it be seen how they got to London in eight and a quarter hours.

Mr. Chas. Welch (Corporation Library, Guildhall, London), said he would include in libraries all kinds of municipal and similar pamphlets, and even the prospectuses of public companies.

Mr. Peter Cowell (Liverpool) in a thoughtful and suggestive paper, which he entitled "Experientia Docet," related the experiences of the Librarian of a large Public Library—the successes and failures of management. Mr. Cowell's liberality and large-minded sympathy with his readers was in very pleasant contrast to the dog-in-the-manger policy which prevails in some libraries.

This paper brought the business of the day to a close, and the Meeting adjourned for luncheon at 1·30.

In the afternoon the party proceeded in brakes to the Cathedral by way of the Salt Market, Glasgow Green, and the High Street. Arrived there, the architectural features of the edifice were pointed out and described by Mr. T. L. Watson, architect. After a careful survey of the nave, the company explored the dark recesses of the wonderfully fine crypt, built by Bishop Joceline, the founder of the present cathedral. On the motion of Mr. Lane-Joynt, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Watson for his kindness in describing the cathedral. The party then returned to George Square by way of Duke Street and George Street, and had an opportunity of seeing the handsome Municipal Buildings, which the Corporation have erected for the accommodation of the city departments.

In the evening the Hon. the Lord Provost, the Magistrates and Town Council, entertained the Members of the Library Association and the British Archæological Association at a Conversazione in the Corporation Galleries. The unpretending exterior of the building gave no token of the magnificent suite of rooms, within which a most charming entertainment was successfully carried out. The sympathetic rendering of the old Scottish music was a revelation to many.

SECOND DAY.

Wednesday Morning, September 9th, at 10 o'Clock.

THE PRESIDENT in the Chair.

The first item on the programme was Professor Ferguson's Paper, entitled, "A Sketch of the Brothers Foulis and other Glasgow Printers."

To those members who still clung to the merely commercial idea of Glasgow, Professor Ferguson's Paper, with which the proceedings of Wednesday opened, must have come as a sort of shock to their prejudices. His "Sketch" told the story of a

Press which for the beauty, quality, and variety of its productions might well compare with those of cities professedly literary. What in some hands would have been a dry bibliographical list became, under the Professor's treatment, an interesting narrative of the Glasgow Press, and a biography of its printers. The paper proved an admirable introduction to the treasures of the Foulis Press, which the members were to see later on in the University Library.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Chancellor Christie said he entirely concurred with the remarks of Professor Ferguson as to the Foulis Press; for the beauty of the impression, the simple beauty of the type and paper, was really that which lent to them their special interest. He trusted that some one interested in printing would give a complete catalogue of the books printed in Glasgow, for it was of great importance to the history of literature that in all localities there should be a catalogue of the books by local printers.

Dr. Smith said that an attempt had been made to get a catalogue of the works printed in Glasgow, and he had no doubt it would be taken up again.

Mr. Wm. Blades (London) suggested that it would be interesting if something could be found out as to the typefounders, because there were very few. He thought it should be possible to trace them, and it was questionable whether the type used by the brothers Foulis had not been obtained from Holland.

Mr. Councillor Rawson (Manchester) said it was a wonder that, after the stimulus which had been given by the brothers Foulis, Glasgow printing should have fallen off and faded, and allowed Edinburgh to surpass it. There was no doubt the work done in London did not excel even that in Edinburgh, and he would like to know whether there were means of ascertaining how Edinburgh had surpassed Glasgow in printing.

Professor Ferguson said he thought the time had come when a full collection of Glasgow books should be made. He believed that the material was now to be found in the city—in the Mitchell Library and in the libraries of private collectors; but that work could not be undertaken by an individual, but by some strong and responsible body who could be induced to take up the work. He also remarked that the first typefounder in Glasgow was James Duncan, who printed Mr. Ure's "History of Glasgow," in 1736; but the chief typefounder was Dr. Wilson, who had his foundry at Camlachie. There was also a Peter Rae, at Kilbride, who cast his own type, made his own presses, and printed the work himself.

Professor Young followed with a paper on "Watermarks in collation of Fifteeners," His remarks were not limited by the title, and no doubt many of those present heard for the first time how most surely to detect a "Mermaid." The paper was read by the Rev. Patrick Aitken.

Mr. W. H. K. Wright's Paper on "Lending Libraries and Board Schools" met with some criticism, mainly on the ground that libraries of small means would be overweighted by any attempt to provide for a large number of small branches.

Mr. Robt. Harrison (London Library) asked whether the library committee were willing to supply fourteen copies of a certain book for each of the fourteen district libraries?

Mr. Pink (Free Library, Cambridge) said his opinion was that the scheme would entail more expenditure on small libraries than they might be inclined to face, and it might be better for the School Board to supply the books.

A member said there was an initial objection to the whole scheme of a pecuniary

kind. The free libraries were limited to the support of a penny a £1, whereas the School Boards were lavish in their expenditure. It was a question whether the School Boards should not bear the cost of these school libraries.

Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) asked whether it would not be better to build up a great central library, with those expensive books of reference for the working men which they could not obtain for themselves—rather than fritter away their means in the establishment of small libraries.

Mr. Pacy (Richmond) raised a most important question in his Paper on "Borrowing and Rating Powers under the Public Libraries Acts," which we trust will not be allowed to drop without a clear answer. It seems that the Acts may be interpreted in such a way that, when a town has adopted them, the authorities may, if they choose, provide and furnish a suitable building out of the general fund, so that the whole of the penny rate may be spent on the books and maintenance. In the discussion which followed—

Mr. Alfred Lancaster (St. Helens) explained that in that borough the expenses for library purposes were defrayed out of the borough rate. There was no special rate but hitherto the expenses had not exceeded one penny per £1. (In reply to a question as to whether they paid rent, Mr. Lancaster said they did).

Mr. Elijah Howarth (Public Museum, Sheffield) said they had had a very curious experience at Sheffield. It was a case of the library committee acquiring property, and letting it to the council. Some time ago a site was to be acquired for municipal buildings, and the council induced the library committee to purchase it. They did so, and put themselves deeply into debt. They let off part of the site to the council for various purposes. Now the council had acquired another site, and the library committee had this debt on their hands with no means of paying it off. There was a circus upon the site, and it was recently let for the purpose of a boxing match between Sullivan and Kilrain. He did not know how far that tended to the development of literature or science; but the council had been very good recently: at the last meeting they talked of promoting an omnibus bill next Session, and agreed to include a clause in it levying an additional 1d. per £1 for the purposes of the library and museum.

Mr. Thomas Formby (of the Free Public Libraries, Liverpool), in the midst of his plenty, seems to give much thought to the needs and hardships of the poorer libraries of the county, and in his paper on "Donations and other Aids to the Library Rate," gave many a kindly and suggestive hint to the librarians of small libraries that, if practically followed, might in many cases change the penny rate into a two-penny one. Unfortunately there was no time for discussion, which the President begged might be postponed.

Mr. Thomas Mason followed with a paper which he styled "A Bibliographical Martyr: Dr. Robert Watt, author of the Bibliotheca Britannica." It is not too much to say that in this paper Mr. Mason has removed the reproach of ingratitude which for nearly three generations has rested upon bibliographers and literary men of every class. His essay was an able and sympathetic tribute to a bibliographical giant, who performed single-handed a feat which in these days would only be attempted by a company; and the members of the Library Association have reason to be proud that their Annual Meeting called forth, and their *Chronicle* will record, this long delayed act of justice to a true "Bibliographical Martyr."

The Meeting adjourned for luncheon at 1.30.

Visit to Glasgow University.

On the invitation of the Principal and Professors, the members of the Association and friends visited Glasgow University in the afternoon. They were received at three o'clock in the Randolph Hall by their President, Professor Dickson, Curator of the University Library. The party afterwards passed into the Bute Hall, where Professor Dickson, having taken the chair, addressed a few words to those present. He said that he had thought it advisable to put what he desired to say about the University Library in the form of a small pamphlet, which would be put into the hands of those present. Prof. Young would make a general statement about the Hunterian collection. The presence in Glasgow of this most important Conference of Librarians was sufficient excuse for his pamphlet. He was desirous of making a statement on the subject because he had read in the *Saturday Review*, or some such periodical, which is always infallible, that the Glasgow University Library possessed no catalogue, and that they had no means of knowing what they had, and, under the circumstances, no means of informing other people what they had. He did not think it necessary to contradict that statement at the time, but he thought he would "bide his time," as the old Scotch saying put it, and he had now taken the opportunity of rectifying that misunderstanding. The history of the University Library contained much that was quaint and interesting from an antiquarian point of view, and he had endeavoured to embody some matter of that kind. He had also endeavoured to give some account of the arrangement of the catalogues of the library. He did not profess to lay down any principles as to cataloguing, but he thought the method upon which they proceeded was that best adapted to the circumstances of a University Library. Mr. Lymburn, the Librarian, from whom he had got valuable aid, would show specimens of the different catalogues that had been made. He (Professor Dickson) would like to call attention to the paper, at the end of his pamphlet, on the Euing collection of Bibles in the University Library. For the description of this extremely interesting, and in some respects unique, collection of Bibles he was indebted to Mr. Lymburn, who had given this interesting *vidimus* of the contents of the collection. Those present might raise the question with posterity whether his pamphlet deserved to be preserved or not by placing it in their libraries.

Professor Young said that he appeared as a representative of the Hunterian Library, and felt no small measure of pride in being so privileged. It was said that the profession of medicine was a learned one, but this myth was getting gradually exploded. We had been careful to reduce the education of medical men to a minimum, but there were still certain things which linked the profession on to the "glorious past," and as he had taken his degree in Edinburgh before the passing of that Medical Act of Reform which was to do everything for the public, and had succeeded only in creating a trade in medicine, he still felt somewhat under the shadow of that great Hunter, by whom the Glasgow Museum, and that in London named after him, were founded. Some of the English visitors who had lately visited Glasgow, and had been told that the Hunterian Museum was there, had said that it was in Lincoln's Inn Fields in London. Being a good Scotsman, he wished to insist upon the fact—to rub it in, in fact—that the Hunters who founded those two museums were Scotsmen, and that it was to a Scotsman we owed that magnificent collection at Lincoln's Inn Fields, and it was to the County of Lanark that the University owed that magnificent

collection which those present would shortly have an opportunity of seeing. The collection was a very varied one: 1783 was the date of Hunter's death, and the collection had been completed prior to that. He spent between forty and fifty years in the collection of objects in almost every department of knowledge and art. He bought pictures, he bought coins, he bought manuscripts, he bought printed books; and the money with which he made the purchases was earned in the very laborious practice of a then very laborious profession. In addition to all this, he found leisure for making a collection of anatomical objects, the like of which, Professor Young felt bound to say, had never been made by any man engaged in what is called general practice. For in some respects Hunter's might be called general practice. John Hunter was a surgeon; William Hunter was a physician. Thus he combined almost every one of those attributes which in these days of decentralisation are locked up in many separate departments. He (Professor Young) had before him a book which it was, he was glad to say, no longer quite a dream to re-edit. He thought it was likely that before long he should be in a position to place before the public an enlargement and revision of what must be regarded as a *tour de force* on the part of its author, Captain J. Laskey, who was stationed some time in Dumbarton, and who was an ornament to letters as well as to his profession. Captain Laskey, in this catalogue, gave a very admirable history of the contents of the collection of the library in the other room. Laid out in that room were some specimens of early printed books and bindings, and to these he would request attention. In Laskey's catalogue there were lists given of a number of the works, and he need only say that in addition to a very magnificent collection of the classics of various dates, there were books on vellum of exquisite beauty and in admirable preservation; and he said this notwithstanding the fact that when the collection was brought to Glasgow it was housed by the advice of experts in a classical building, and the security of a classical building against damp was not of the highest order. One or two of the examples might be picked out in which a deterioration had taken place, but it should be remembered that the collection was for some years elsewhere, and he asked for a lenient judgment. There were some very curious notes extracted from books in the library by Laskey. There were indications of the sources from which this collection came. It was gathered from all parts of Europe, and included some magnificent specimens of binding. There was a collection of examples of the English press, a catalogue of which had been made up and was in manuscript, and would appear as soon as the new edition was in form. It was made thirty years ago by Mr. Blades, and perhaps he would be able to tell more about the collection than any one who was now present. Of the Scottish press Dr. Hunter did not obtain many specimens. The manuscripts, however, if it were not unpatriotic to say so, compensated for the deficiency in this respect. There was a gem in the way of the Homilies of St. Basilius, which bears the date 859. He would not detain the Association any longer from walking through the museum, but he would beg them to remember that what he had said regarding the library was a fragment only of what he might have said; for if he began to give a reasonably fair idea of its treasures, he should detain them till to-morrow, and possibly they might object to that—certainly he would. Mr. Aitken would point out to those who were interested in the matter a number of specimens, upon which he had founded some of his information. Professor Ferguson, who knew a great deal more about the library than anyone else, because he was the man who had eaten paper, who had drunk ink,

who knew of the beauties that were bred in books to an extent to which few others could lay claim, would give any information that was required.

The members and their friends were then conducted through the library and museum, under the guidance of their hosts. Subsequently refreshments were served in one of the rooms of the University. This closed the proceedings for the day.

THIRD DAY.

The sittings of the Association were resumed in the Hall of the Merchants' House, at ten o'clock, on Thursday morning, the President in the chair.

The Borrajo Prize.

The President said there were one or two points he had been asked to refer to before calling for the report. He had to intimate that the Borrajo Prize for this year, for an essay "On the History of Printing in England to the year 1800," had been awarded to Mr. W. E. Doubleday, of the Nottingham Free Public Libraries.

The Late Mr. A. J. Frost.

He was also asked by the Council to mention the fact that sometime ago an appeal had been made to the members of the Association in the *Library Chronicle*, on behalf of the family of the late Mr. A. J. Frost, Librarian to the Society of Telegraphic Engineers, for years a member of the Council, auditor to the Association, and who, after the long period during which he was invalided, at length died, leaving three children very ill-provided for. If any members of the Association were disposed to contribute towards this object, Mr. Thomas would be very glad to receive subscriptions.

The Annual Report.

The President asked Mr. Chancellor Christie to move the adoption of the Report, which he suggested might be taken as read.

Mr. Chancellor Christie said he would be exceedingly brief in moving the adoption of the report, because the election of office-bearers always took some time and there were still a number of papers to be read. The report of the Council and the financial statement had been in their hands since the previous day, and he thought there was really nothing in the report which rendered it necessary to make any special remark. He would confine himself with one exception to simply moving the adoption of the report and financial statement. But he must take up a few minutes to express what he was sure everyone of those present felt, how much they all were indebted to Mr. Thomas, not only for the preparation of the report, but for the lengthened services, for the valuable services—he might say the invaluable services—which he had rendered to the Association. They all knew that without Mr. Thomas it would have been all but impossible for the Society to have existed. As a Vice-President—though he was sorry to say he could not attend the Council so regularly as he could wish—he did know what many of them did not know, the great amount of labour, the voluntary labour, which was undertaken by Mr. Thomas. Mr. Thomas incurred very great costs on behalf of the Association, which he would not be allowed to do, had they the means to repay him. He (the speaker) was sure Mr. MacAlister would not think he was saying too much on behalf of his colleague. Mr. MacAlister had recently become

joint Secretary with Mr. Thomas, and he had no doubt they would by-and-bye be able to say the same things of him.

Mr. Chas. Welch (Corporation Library, Guildhall, London) said he had much pleasure in seconding this report, and more particularly as it was to be associated with a vote of thanks to the senior secretary, Mr. Thomas. He spoke with some knowledge as his colleague, both in the secretaryship and in the Council, and as a member of the Association from its commencement, and he could fully bear out all that Mr. Chancellor Christie had said regarding Mr. Thomas's generosity in devoting his services as he had done to our interests. He thought the position of secretary was a vital matter in an association of this kind, and they owed Mr. Thomas for his services of many years a debt they could never repay. He had that great requisite for launching a new society on a successful voyage, namely, enthusiasm, which he possessed to a very large extent. Good wine needed no bush, and it was not necessary for him, in Mr. Thomas's presence, to say more; but he was sure he was expressing the feelings of those present in seconding the proposal which had been moved.

Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) wished to say a word or two in support of what had been said. He endorsed all Mr. Chancellor Christie had said, but there was one practical suggestion he would like to add, and it was to move that in appreciation of Mr. Thomas's long and faithful services to this Association he be elected a Life-member of the Association. Mr. Christie had already alluded to the personal expenses which Mr. Thomas was called upon to bear. How far they could do anything in that matter he did not know, but he thought it would be some mark of their appreciation if they elected him a Life-member.

Mr. Chancellor Christie thought it would be better to make this an independent motion.

The President reminded the meeting that the adoption of the report had been moved and seconded.

Mr. Chas. Madeley (Warrington) asked as to an entry in the accounts—the payment on account to the proprietors of the *Library Chronicle* of a lump sum of £138. He should like to know what terms had been agreed upon between the Association and the *Chronicle*, as there was absolutely no information, except the payment of a single sum of £138.

Mr. MacAlister was rather surprised that any member of the Association—and especially a member of the Council—need ask such a question. He (Mr. MacAlister) had not been present at the meeting at which the accounts were prepared, but he knew, as did most of the members, certainly all the older ones, that the Association had made a very advantageous arrangement with the proprietors of the *Chronicle* through which they escaped all uncertain liability and risk by a fixed payment of 5s. per member per annum, in return for which the members of the Association received the *Chronicle* free. As the list of members contained about 400 names, and this payment was for a period of some twenty-one months, it was a very easy sum to show that the bill must amount to about £40 more than had been paid. But as the report stated, the list was undergoing a very scrupulous recension; and he thought it a wise thing on the part of the Council to make only a payment on account, until they should have before them a perfectly correct list.

Mr. Madeley believed there had been no word in any of the reports that 5s. per member was the agreement. He would move, as an amendment, that an explanatory note be inserted in the accounts.

Mr. Chancellor Christie did not think an amendment could be moved on the treasurer's cash account.

Mr. Madeley asked if the arrangement had been recorded anywhere, had it been printed? He was sorry to bring this up again. A resolution had been passed at Dublin authorising the Council to come to some arrangement as to the *Chronicle*, but the agreement which had been entered into had never been reported, and it had never been reported whether any arrangement had been made for the publication of the Proceedings. It was very desirable these things should be stated somewhere.

The President thought that, as a Member of the Council, Mr. Madeley should, properly, bring this matter before that body.

Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) asked whether next year there would be a balance against them; if so, would not an addition to the subscription of 5s. cover all expenses next year?

Mr. Harrison (Treasurer) said, last year he began with a balance of £128. Now he presented a statement showing a balance of £141, but many of the liabilities stated in last year's report had been cancelled. He thought the Society was improving financially. They had made a very great saving by the agreement as to the *Chronicle*. They were formerly responsible for everything, now they got the *Chronicle* at a bargain.

The report was then adopted.

Mr. Cowell (Liverpool) asked leave to renew his proposal, namely—That as a mark of appreciation of the zealous labours of Mr. Thomas on behalf of the Association he be elected a Life-member.

Mr. Charles E. Scarse seconded the resolution, which was cordially agreed to.

Mr. Thomas said that in many respects he had an idea he was perhaps a bad secretary; but in one respect he thought he did not fall short of any secretary, namely, in his zeal for the Association. He was extremely obliged to the members for the compliment that had been paid to him; and it was a compliment he received with the more pleasure in consideration of the very handsome way in which his late colleague, Mr. Welch, seconded the motion.

The President said that before the other business was proceeded with, he understood Mr. Blades had a communication to make.

An Early Advocate of Free Libraries.

Mr. Blades said he wished to lay before the Association a little book, Mr. Folkard, the worthy librarian of the Wigan Public Library, had found in that library. Its title page was as follows:—"An Overture for Founding and Maintaining Bibliothecks in every Paroch, 1699."

The President said he was sure the Association were greatly obliged to Mr. Blades for his very interesting communication. He might state that an overture meant a legislative proposal submitted to the General Assembly of the Protestant Church in the form of a Bill submitted to the House of Commons. He had no doubt this book proceeded from some minister at the time; it was exceedingly interesting. He had not seen it before that day, but he would endeavour to get some light on the matter, and if he heard of anything he would communicate it to the *Library Chronicle*. In the meantime, he might claim the credit for the Church of having had its eyes open.

Mr. Chancellor Christie acknowledged the great interest of the tract, but on behalf of the benighted inhabitants of the southern part of the island, he would remind Mr.

Blades that, a very few years after this, Dr. Bray obtained an Act of Parliament in the reign of Queen Anne for establishing free libraries; but it was to be regretted that it was not of very great practical effect.

The President then called upon Mr. J. D. Brown (of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow) to read his paper entitled "The Arrangement of large subject-headings in Dictionary Catalogues."

Mr. Madeley said he would like to express a feeling of gratitude to Mr. Brown for bringing forward this important subject. It was one which was a little too much taken for granted at their meetings. The Association had spent some years in arranging cataloguing rules, but it was rather remarkable their code contained no reference whatever to subject entries, although it was almost the universal practice amongst Free Libraries to issue their catalogues in dictionary form with authors and subjects. As far as Mr. Brown went, his opinion as to the relative desirability of different methods of subject classifications was entirely to be supported. It was really remarkable he had omitted one very valuable method of subject arrangement, which Mr. Mason alluded to as being characteristic of the second part of Dr. Watt's book, and from the manner in which they affect his allusions to the chronological arrangement, as affording a view to the history of a subject, he thought they would agree with him when he said Mr. Brown should have included some reference to the arrangement. There was another matter. He was not quite sure whether Mr. Brown alluded to it. When a subject-heading went over one page, it was very necessary the sub-headings should be numbered. They should all be very glad if they thought Mr. Brown, following on his labours in the compilation of the dictionary of Mr. Mason, would undertake the list which he mentioned, and he should like in advance to deprecate any attempt to carry out the work by committee. They had had enough of experience of the length of time and result of labours of that kind. If Mr. Brown would not undertake the work alone, two or three other members might join with him and get up something for practical use, and then, though the result might not bear the seal of the Association, they would know who was responsible for it.

Mr. J. J. Ogle (Bootle) said it seemed to him, theoretically, that the best arrangement possible was that under specific headings, as advocated by Mr. Archer at the Dublin Meeting. Instead of getting an analytical arrangement they wanted to get a synthetical one.

Mr. Wood (Bradford) thought Mr. Ogle had rather misapprehended the paper. Mr. Brown's theory was similar to the one Mr. Ogle had just mentioned. This was a subject he had taken a great deal of interest in, and there were one or two points he should like to mention. Taking up the heading "Scotland" he found, for instance, Mr. Brown had subdivided "Scotland," and "Agriculture in Scotland." It seemed to him this was rather multiplying entries without any special purpose. If they put all the entries relating to agriculture under Agriculture in the general catalogue he did not know they particularly needed to repeat the entries under "Agriculture in Scotland." Too many cross-references in a catalogue were objectionable; they were very good theoretically he had no doubt, but where there were too many the reader got wearied. Very often the cross-references led one nowhere. Then there were was another point Mr. Brown had mentioned—the question of dealing with miscellaneous books on Scotland. There were many books that would not come under any specific subject at all, and he did not know whether Mr. Brown had made any provision for allocating

these books under the heading of "Scotland." He threw these hints out in order to ventilate the matter a little.

The President said his excellent friend Mr. Barrett had intimated that he did not propose to read his paper "Notes on methods of shewing current numbers of periodicals," but would ask that it be taken as read.

Mr. J. Ingram (sub-librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow) then read a paper entitled "A Day's Reading at the Mitchell Library."

Mr. Mullins (Birmingham) said there was no doubt of the interest and value of the paper. The manner in which the analysis of the day's reading at the Library had been made enabled them to judge at once whether or not the work that was being done at the Library was of practical value. He thought that if many such papers were read in Glasgow it would be impossible for the people to go on very much longer without taking steps for the erection of a new building in which to house the Library.

Mr. Cockerell (Cambridge) also testified to the value of the Paper. In view of the facts disclosed he could not for the life of him understand how it was that, on two successive occasions, the Free Libraries Acts had been defeated by increasing majorities. He hoped that the Conference would not end without some light being thrown on the reason. Some one had said something in a paper about the result being due to the influence of a single newspaper. It was preposterous, however, to suppose that opinions expressed in any newspaper could exceed all the opinions expressed by other portions of the press. He did not ask the Conference to take up time by discussing the point, but perhaps at a later period of the day when the members got into a more serene atmosphere, there would be some explanation given.

Mr. Humphery read a Paper on "The Duty of Government to provide the People with Books."

Mr. Cockerell said he supposed that Mr. Humphery, in urging that the Government should provide libraries meant that it should be done at the Government expense. It seemed to him that they had done all they could be reasonably expected to do. It had given power to each locality to adopt the Libraries Acts. They had established the principle of local option, which was so popular in another matter. If a parish did not choose to avail itself of the power, it was not for the people to complain. It seemed to him that any attempt to get the Government to establish libraries regulated by a Board in London would not meet with the sanction of Parliament. The members of the Association should rather direct their energies to the fostering of local effort to take advantage of the powers already in existence.

Mr. Watson (Hawick) also thought that the power was within their own hands. It was better that it should remain there than be put in the possession of the Government. There was one way in which the Government might, at very small cost to itself, assist the existing libraries, and that was by directing that copies of all its publications—blue books, parliamentary returns, and official reports—should be distributed among them. He understood that in a great many instances surplus copies became the perquisites of the butcher. He had known of instances in which government publications had been transferred from the library of some M.P. to the shops of tradesmen. If there were not sufficient copies for the libraries when the books were being printed it would not cost a great deal to throw off additional copies for the libraries. The Association should lose no opportunity of inculcating upon the Government the duty of placing within the reach of the people their publications. The

Government of the United States were far more liberal than our own Government in this respect. Consular or other reports were at the service of any library which chose to write for them. He had been told that consular reports, which had been refused by our Government, had actually been provided by the United States Government and circulated through the country.

Mr. Dent (Aston) deprecated the idea of the Government being approached in the manner suggested in the Paper. They knew from experience that Goverment aid meant Government control. His own being a local board district, most unfortunately in some respects, their finances were interfered with by Government. They had an auditor who not only exercised his functions in that capacity, but sat in a judicial way, and exercised authority over every minute matter; he had even interfered with the form of book-keeping. He (Mr. Dent) had proposed to adopt a system by which the sales of catalogues and so on would be shown separately. The auditor, however, said "You can't do this. The Government form of book-keeping prescribes that so many red lines shall be ruled on a page, and beyond that you must not go." He was very good to them also in the matter of repayments of building loans, as the Conference had heard on the previous day. And according to his ruling any portion of the rate raised by the penny rate which remained after the accounts were met for the year was lost to them. In one year he took £70. off them, and placed it on the general district rate. These were some of the ways in which Government control affected Library Committees; Town Councils were happily free from such control at the present time.

Mr. Pacy (Richmond) said that they wanted some control in regard to Free Libraries such as they had in other things. Why should Libraries be restricted in regard to finances by Act of Parliament in the way that was done when there was no restriction with regard to other local rating matters? With respect to the balance that Mr. Dent spoke of he might think himself very well off that he had a balance at all. Would the best course for them to follow not be to reduce the rate to a half-penny?

Mr. Ogle thought the Government might help Libraries in the same way that they helped museums, by giving objects of art. He suggested that the Association should endeavour to influence the Government in this direction of getting something of the kind inserted in any bill for the promotion of technical instruction.

Mr. Madeley pointed out that in the Government Bill introduced this year and withdrawn, the principle was admitted that technical instruction came within the scope of the Free Libraries Acts. Therefore it would be the thing to adopt the Libraries Acts as a preliminary. That being the case there would probably be no difficulty in Library Committees administering both.

Mr. McCorquodale (Glasgow) spoke on the subject of Free Libraries from a ratepayers' point of view. It was a very difficult matter in some communities, especially in Glasgow, he said, to get the Libraries Acts adopted. All sorts of authorities taxed the people, and those who were promoting the adoption of the acts thought that for once in their lives the people might wish to enjoy the luxury of taxing themselves. Unfortunately they found that they were mistaken in this idea. He did not think there was any tax which could be mentioned, whether income tax, or any other tax, as to which the people would give any other answer, if Mr. Goschen were to take a *plébiscite*, than the one "we do not want it." So he thought it might meet the wish of the gentleman who read the paper, if the Free Libraries were not put under Government

control, that they should be under municipal control; but with this difference that every town, of whatever number of inhabitants they might choose to mention, say 30,000 or 40,000, on account of the great benefits that had been derived from the Acts, should be obliged to adopt the Acts. This seemed to him to be the most business-like solution of the whole difficulty. A very short bill would do; but the difficulty would be to get it passed. Free Libraries, he pointed out, would be a meeting place for young men who in the winter had now no suitable place to go to. More than that they would be able to carry home books to read at their own firesides.

Mr. Pink (Cambridge) thought the Association should make it its duty to watch any bills that might be introduced to parliament in connection with libraries, for the purpose of seeing that Members did not put their foot on the question too heavily. He thought they should protect themselves from any Government interference.

Councillor Rawson (Manchester) said that in the city from which he came, people were feeling the restrictions imposed on them very keenly. He was convinced that when they intended to appeal to the ratepayers for extended powers, they would meet with a very different response from that given in Glasgow. The intention was to ask the people whether Government should not be approached with a view of removing the restrictions, so as to enable the authorities to raise not merely the penny rate, but whatever sum might be considered necessary.

Mr. W. E. A. Axon's Paper on "Taylor the Platonist," was taken as read.

Next Year's Meeting.

The President moved "That it be left to the Council to determine the next place of meeting, and that it be an instruction to them to arrange, if possible, for the meeting being in Paris."

Mr. Harrison seconded the motion.

Mr. Cockerell objected to the Paris proposal, and suggested that the whole matter should be left to the Council, as was done on a previous occasion. Though many people would like to go to Paris to see the Exhibition, the Library Conference would be overshadowed and become a second or third rate affair.

Mr. Lane Joynt looked upon this departure as a very great risk. If they were to go abroad there were places with more renowned collections of books than at Paris. Why should they not got to Brussels?

Mr. Burgoyne said it would be inconvenient for him to go to Paris. He said this because he thought that in a case like this, candour was the highest diplomacy.

Mr. Thomas said that unless there was a very strong opinion in favour of the meeting being held in Paris, the Council would not take on itself the responsibility of saying it should be held there.

The motion was then put to the meeting, and by a show of hands the President declared it unquestionably carried.

Election of President.

Mr. Thomas intimated that only one nomination for the office of President had been received, viz.—that of Mr. Chancellor Christie—and he was thereby *ipso facto* elected. But upon learning that it was intended, if possible, to hold a meeting in Paris, Mr. Christie suggested they should attempt to take with them some one who occupied a position of national importance from a library point of view, say the Chief Librarian of the

British Museum, and, with that kindness and modesty that had at all times characterised his relations with the Association, asked that his name should be withdrawn.

It was agreed to leave the matter in the hands of the Council.

The result of the Ballot for the election of Vice-Presidents and Council was as follows:—

Vice-Presidents: F. T. Barrett, George Bullen, Mr. Chancellor Christie, J. T. Clark, Peter Cowell, The Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, Dr. Richard Garnett, J. D. Mullins, Prof. W. Robertson Smith, C. W. Sutton, Sam. Timmins, Edmund Tonks.

Council (London Members): J. B. Bailey, E. M. Borrajo, F. J. Burgoyne, Cecil T. Davis, W. R. Douthwaite, L. Inkster, Professor F. Pollock, H. R. Tedder; *(Country Members)* W. Archer, J. P. Briscoe, R. K. Dent, H. T. Folkard, Rev. J. C. Hudson, T. G. Law, C. Madeley, T. Mason, W. May, J. J. Ogle, C. E. Scarse, W. H. K. Wright.

The following officers were declared elected by nomination:—

Treasurer: Robert Harrison.

Hon. Secs.: J. Y. W. MacAlister and E. C. Thomas.

Auditors: T. J. Agar and G. R. Humphery.

Votes of Thanks.

The President said he had great pleasure in proposing that they should record their thanks to the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Town Council for the courtesy and kindness with which they had received the Library Association. It would not do for him, as a citizen of Glasgow, to enlarge on the subject, and it was quite unnecessary that he should do so, because he was very well assured that the members must cordially agree with the sentiment the motion expressed. He had been asked to express the regret of the Lord Provost that he could not be present to reply to the vote. The members might be well assured that he would have been with them at the end of the proceedings as he was with them at the beginning, if it had been at all possible.

Mr. Cockerell seconded. He was sure, he said, that he expressed the views of everyone present when he stated that they deeply felt the great courtesy and hospitality with which they had been received by the Corporation.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Harrison said he was sure he had only to recall to the minds of the members the extremely pleasant and profitable afternoon which they had spent on the previous day, to make quite sure of their approval of the motion which he was about to submit, namely—that they give their very cordial thanks to the Principal and Professors of the University of Glasgow.

The vote was carried by acclamation.

The President said he need hardly express how very grateful they were for the acknowledgment of the small kindness which they had showed the members. On the part of Professor Young and himself, who were more particularly concerned in showing things, he had to say that it was not in their power as individuals to make everything plain by personal explanation; but he could only say, that if anyone honoured them with an individual visit, they would endeavour to make up all deficiencies.

Mr. Cowell said he had to move that the thanks of the Association be accorded

to the Committees of the various Institutions who had placed their rooms at the disposal of the members, and to Messrs. Constable and Maclehose for copies of their guides to Glasgow. They had all been exceedingly delighted and pleased with their visit to Glasgow. Without adding further compliment, he could only add one hope that he thought was present to them all, that before very long they should be able to see, rearing itself in the centre of Glasgow, a great Free Public Library under the Acts, that would do credit to this great city. To wish this for Glasgow was the best proof of their gratitude and kindly feeling towards its citizens.

Mr. T. G. Law said he had great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks. The kindness and courtesy they experienced everywhere they went was of immense help to them. There was an intelligent interest taken in their proceedings, and they had all found that in Glasgow they learnt more than they had to impart.

The resolution was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Mullins then proposed a vote of thanks to the Local Committee. They had, he said, had very hard work during many months in preparing for the Congress. What would become of them all without such a committee—turned loose on an unhappy city without a habitation or a resting-place, wandering about, a drove of wild library folk. He felt sure that all those present would feel that their work for the next twelve months would be very much brightened as the result of the Congress in Glasgow.

The motion was seconded by Mr. D. B. Watson, and carried by acclamation.

Mr. McCorquodale, in acknowledging the compliment, said that the real workers were the secretaries and treasurers—Professor Ferguson, Mr. Barrett, Dr. McGregor, who, unfortunately, was unwell, and Mr. Mason.

Mr. Councillor Rawson said another duty remained to them, and that was to express their gratitude to the officers of the Association for the great labours they had undergone and the admirable way in which they had discharged their duties. Year by year the members were under obligations to them. The Secretaries and other officers were not appointed for one year; they were for many years, and their labours had in consequence extended over a very considerable time. These obligations he proposed to acknowledge by moving that the very best thanks of the Association be given to the officers of the Association.

Mr. Plant, in seconding, said that whether these officers were good or bad they deserved the best thanks of the Association, for the amount of work which had been done and the successful results attained. He was glad to say that he had had the pleasure of meeting several of the gentlemen in other than a general manner.

The resolution was carried.

Mr. Harrison said he had never found Mr. MacAlister shirk his duty—indeed he always seemed eager for it—till now; and he was the more surprised in this instance as it was the very agreeable duty of thanking the members for the cordial vote of thanks they had passed; but he felt it was incumbent on him, as Treasurer, in name of the working officers of the Association to thank the Association for the confidence they had shown them. It was now eleven years since he had held office, and he should be very glad to retire; but as long as members continued their confidence he should be happy to serve them in his present office.

Mr. Lane Joynt said he had great pleasure in moving that the very cordial thanks of the Association be given to the Rev. Professor, their President, for the ability with which he had conducted their proceedings, the address which he had delivered, and

for his pamphlet, which he had read with pleasure, from cover to cover. He had enjoyed the meeting immensely, and they were all greatly indebted to their President.

The Rev. J. C. Hudson seconded the motion, which was carried with applause.

The President said nothing could be more kind or more flattering than the terms in which he had been alluded to. Such services as he had been able to render had been willingly placed at the disposal of the Association. He could only regret that owing to some circumstances connected with his health, he had not been able to accomplish more; and the same hindrance compelled him to ask them to excuse him from participating in some of the pleasures awaiting them that day and the next. He thanked them most cordially for the great kindness with which they had received the proposal. The proceedings then terminated.

In the afternoon the members went by special train from St. Enoch's Station to Ayr, where vehicles were in waiting to convey them to the cottage where the immortal Robbie Burns was born, and to the adjacent monument erected to his memory on the banks of the Doon. Ex-Preceptor Wilson did the honours at the cottage. At Alloway's auld haunted Kirk the genial Preceptor drew out the old worthy, who describes the ruin, and standing amongst the tombstones under a shower of rain, the company were treated to "Tam o' Shanter," in the vernacular. The old man pointed out the window through which Tam beheld the beauties of Cutty Sark. Another portion of the company found its way to the Auld Brig o' Doon, where Maggie lost her tail; and here also an enthusiastic native gave voice to the immortal "Tam o' Shanter."

On reaching the town the party drove over the new bridge, from which the "Auld Brig" may be seen, to the Town Hall, where the Local Committee entertained the company to dinner.

Ex-Preceptor Wilson occupied the Chair, and Bailie Colquhoun and Councillor Graham officiated as croupiers. Among the guests may be mentioned—Sir Michael Connal, Professor John Ferguson, Bailie Ferguson, Ayr; Mr. Maybin, Rector of Ayr Academy; the Town Clerk and the Chamberlain of Ayr; Bailie Thomson, Glasgow; and Councillor Primrose, Glasgow. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts having been proposed, the Chairman, in a felicitous speech, gave "The Library Association of the United Kingdom," to which Mr. Harrison responded. Mr. Lane-Joynt proposed "Auld Ayr, which ne'er a toon surpasses for honest men and bonnie lasses," in his usual happy style, and Mr. Maybin, Rector of Ayr Academy, replied. The toast of "The American Library Association," proposed by Mr. J. D. Mullins, and replied to by the Rev. E. C. Richardson, was very warmly received. After a most enjoyable evening the members returned to Glasgow by special train.

On Friday a large number of the members and their friends made a most delightful excursion in a steamer chartered for the purpose by the Local Committee. The day was perfect, and the magnificent scenery of the Firth of Clyde was at its best. The route chosen lay through the lovely and romantic Kyles of Bute and round the Island of Arran. Here the steamer stopped for an hour, and many availed themselves of the opportunity for a ramble on shore, while others enjoyed the luxury of a swim. On the return journey an impromptu session was held in the saloon, the main business of which consisted of speeches, eulogistic of the various members of the Local Committee, to whom very hearty votes of thanks were passed. The recipients replied and the Glasgow meeting terminated with much hand-shaking, many congratulations and wishes for 'NEXT YEAR.'

ADDRESS TO THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.[1]

By Prof. William P. Dickson, D.D., LL.D., Curator of the University Library.

My first duty is to thank you for having honoured me with the call to preside over this meeting of our Association. I owe it more to your favour than to my fitness for the office; you have been disposed to see a merit in seniority, and to infer from my official relation to the largest library in Glasgow such an interest in the work and sympathy with the aims of the Association as are meet in its President. So far, at least, as the will on my part is concerned, let me hope that you may not be mistaken.

I have been a member of the Association almost from its outset, although not strictly in name a librarian. Long before I had a practical connection with the affairs of a large library, I had, as a student, formed a high ideal of the librarian's qualifications and duties, and of the possibilities of usefulness involved in his office, which led me, nearly thirty years ago, to embody some suggestions in a Letter (printed but not published) to the Scottish University Commissioners of 1858 with special reference to the University Library at St. Andrew's. The letter betrayed, perhaps, more of *dilettante* zeal than of mature wisdom; but I have seen no reason, in the light of subsequent experience, to modify the general view which at that time I thus expressed: "A well selected library, with its resources known and freely accessible, is in its own province as important an instrument of university culture as the professoriate. That the library may be in character and usefulness what it ought to be, the true office and honour of the librarian must be vindicated; and, instead of the mere mechanical manipulation of volumes being reckoned, as hitherto, the main duty of that officer, the charge of presiding over such a collection, systematically suggesting and proportioning its acquisitions, noting and supplying its deficiencies, arranging and cataloguing its contents, and facilitating by intelligence and sympathy the use of its resources to all concerned, must be acknowledged as equal in responsibility, dignity and importance to any other academic function—requiring attainments more varied, if not so deep, and affecting interests more general, and, moreover, more lasting." A few years later, when other duties had called me to Glasgow, and I had been asked to act as convener of the Committee having charge of the University Library, a crisis in its history on the eve of its removal to Gilmorehill brought upon me the unexpected task of attempting, as Curator, to catalogue and arrange its contents afresh on a uniform plan. I have thus learned by experience to realise something of the character, the difficulties and the importance of your work. With this knowledge I cannot well magnify unduly the office of the librarian, or express too strongly my gratitude for being allowed—however unworthily—to share in its honours.

My next duty is, on behalf of the Local Committee, to welcome our colleagues from "adjacent parts" of the United Kingdom who have found their way to Glasgow. and to express the hope that, notwithstanding the peculiarities of our climate and of our speech, and in spite of the fact that—to the regret of many of us—we remain outer barbarians in the matter of Free Libraries, our visitors may be able in more respects than one to verify the boast of our worthy civic rulers that Glasgow is "no mean city." On the other hand I trust that, amidst the manifold pilgrimages to the City of St. Mungo in this *Annus Mirabilis* of its history, not a few of the citizens may be induced

[1] At the Eleventh Annual Meeting, in Glasgow, September 4th, 1888.

for the moment to join our ranks, if only for the sake of learning what manner of persons we are, and how much of general interest mingles with our special discussions.

They will speedily be dispossessed of the belief—if they have ever been haunted by it—that we are a flight of bats and owls, suddenly emerging from musty mediæval retreats into the light of common day, or a band of modern specialists whose mysteries no outsider can understand without long apprenticeship, or a combination of skilled craftsmen claiming a monopoly of power and privilege, and interested mainly in the concerns of our own order. We do not represent a special cult, or caste or club; if we form a class, we exist, nowadays at any rate, mainly for the benefit of the mass. We claim in some sense to belong to the most catholic, or—if the new barbarism be preferred—altruistic of professions. We work mainly for others; we have points of contact with all sorts and conditions of men, at least of such as have mastered the alphabet; we do not appeal to any one side of human nature, or any one form of its wants or of its efforts; our motto is *nil humani alienum.* We keep the keys of the temple of knowledge, only that we may throw it open to all who desire to enter; we collect our stores, that others may trade with their borrowed treasures; and, as our business concerns more or less directly all our fellow citizens, we may reasonably expect, as we freely invite, their interest in our efforts to serve them.

Perhaps the most valuable result of our Association has been to vindicate for the profession of librarian its proper place, to define more clearly its sphere and functions, and to assert its title to be honoured for its own sake. Formerly the special gifts or personal qualities of the holder might confer importance on the office; but it was less valued by and for itself. Sometimes it was conjoined with other offices, sometimes it was shared between a nominal chief, who received the honour, and a subordinate who rendered much work for little pay. At times it was deemed a convenient refuge for antiquarian research, or for literary leisure, or a scanty reward for special linguistic gifts; and it is nowise surprising, if what are now reckoned the primary and essential duties of the office were treated as secondary or largely ignored.

Some of us are old enough to recollect representatives of types now almost as extinct as the Dodo. There was, for instance, the honorary librarian, whose motto was *quieta non movere*, who had been put in charge of a buried talent and felt no call to bring it to light, who revered the dust he had inherited and sought only to transmit it to posterity undisturbed:—a man perhaps not unkindly in other respects, whose chief function was to sit watchfully for an hour, two or three times a week, behind the table from which books were given out, that he might repress any desire on the part of readers to pass beyond the scanty literary provender on which he had himself fared in the days of his youth forty or fifty years before, and who frowned and growled at the unhappy student longing to explore less familiar regions, or to taste, if but stealthily, any later and fresher delights.

Some of us, too, may perchance remember what one may call the *pococurante* librarian, affable and cheerful, willing under gentle pressure to oblige you, but more pleased to be let alone, ready to meet any inquiry with a shrug, a smile, or a jest; jealous of access to the catalogues and still more to the shelves, cherishing but slight sympathy with pursuits which he would mentally characterise as "vanity of vanities," and secretly deriving no small gratification from the most frequent and saddest of all the calamities of authors—that of never being read. He belongs wholly to the past; peace to his Manes!

Many of us may look back with more regret on the librarian of the antiquarian or purely book-worm type—on the quaint enthusiast in whose eyes the former days were so much better than these that he lived wholly in the past, allowed his love for the old and the rare to become an entirely engrossing passion, delighted in what he called "Fifteeners," black-letter copies and other curiosities of literature, but disdained, or at the most tolerated with a gentle pity, the recent and the useful. He preferred the Speculum Mundi to the Encyclopædia Britannica and a tract of Sir Thomas Browne to the works of Mr. Herbert Spencer; and, while he jealously hoarded his bibliographic treasures, was comparatively careless of whatever fate might befall the literary and scientific products of modern times. It is pleasant to think of his old fashioned ways and delightful foibles; but his one-sided devotedness has long ceased to be the ideal for the librarian of to-day.

To fewer still is it given to indulge the tastes of the bibliophile or the bibliomaniac, however much we may sympathise with the one or barely escape suspicion of being tinged with the malady of the other. We may envy those of our associates who have had the good fortune to be charged with the oversight of such treasures rich and rare as gladdened the heart of Dibdin; but it is no longer the chief end of a librarian to occupy himself only with books printed on large paper or on vellum, and bound by a Roger Payne or a Bedford.

Now that the profession has been more fully developed and organised under the influence of the Association, the librarian is first and above all what his name denotes *totus in hoc*—not a mere custodier jealously guarding his treasures and warding off profane approach, nor yet a mere clerk entering in his register the books lent out and returned, but a skilled administrator of a public trust, specially trained in most instances for its duties, and devoted to them as the work of his life. A recent number of the *Library Chronicle* contains the questions set in the examination for a certificate of competency, from which one gathers something of the attainments expected in the librarian of the present day. I glanced at them with some tremulous interest as to the possibility of the examination being made retrospective; but when, in addition to the more strictly technical and the more general literary tests, I found myself confronted by the question, "What is evolution?" I hesitated whether I ought to affirm that mystic, many-sided term to be an adequate explanation of everything, or to suggest that it in turn stands greatly in need of being itself explained, and I was glad that—having passed beyond the examinable stage—I had no call to evolve an answer.

Our Association has taught us what is requisite toward the fulfilling of our vocation, and has shown us how best to do its work; or—if this may seem too strong a way of putting the matter to those who were busy before its day, and whose experience, in fact, suggested the rules and methods which have now been formulated—it has, at least, collected and concentrated the light, and now diffuses it as common property. It has enabled us to own our kinship of pursuits and aims, to take joint counsel, to give and receive help, to cherish the friendly sympathy and generous emulation of fellow-workers towards a common end. It has drawn us out of our isolation, and furnished us with the strength which springs from conscious community of effort. It has enabled us to realise more fully than before how important is our place and how indispensable are our functions in the great commonwealth of letters—understood, not in the limited sense of the brotherhood who call themselves *Literati*, *Savants*, *Fachgelehrten*, or the like, but in the wider

range which embraces, along with these, the greater world of the public to which they minister. The time has come when we may with due modesty, it is to be hoped, but with all needful frankness and firmness, assert our position as mediate agents between the producers and consumers of literature. The link of connection may seem individually slight; we may appear infinitesimal units interposed between the imposing array of authors and the endless host of their admirers; but we afford in our collective capacity an illustration of what Dr. Chalmers called "the power of littles." Our intervention is now in most cases indispensable to the contact between author and reader. But, while we strive to do justice to both sides, we find that our own position brings us, by the very necessities of the case, into apparent antagonism to the claims of either. We cannot procure all the works of all authors; and we cannot meet the demands of all readers. In our forecast of the probable wants of the latter we may find little room for the supply proffered by the former; and, if we are not prone to urge exclusion, even at the bidding of the critics who rarely confess themselves mistaken, it may not occur to us to suggest the inclusion in our lists of much which, from the author's point of view, deserves admittance; and we are ever and anon encountering readers so unreasonable as to be unwilling to accept our assurance of 100,000 volumes awaiting their perusal as any excuse or compensation for the absence of the one thing for the moment needful. We are perpetually compelled to aggrieve somebody. Our work is, like the Hegelian philosophy, a constant attempt in all spheres of our action to reconcile contradictions. As custodiers we have to reconcile preservation with use, the interests of the future with the needs of the present. We have to keep without hoarding, to guard our treasures without concealing them; we have to collect and at the same time to diffuse; we have to retain for common reference and to lend for individual study. In acquisition we have to choose between quantity and quality; in selection between gratifying many and satisfying few; in binding between economy and elegance; in cataloguing between fulness and brevity; while in administration we have to reconcile caution with zeal, and to combine the *fortiter in re* with the *suaviter in modo.*

But, if in our efforts to pursue a middle course, we are compelled to aggrieve the *genus irritabile* of authors and certain types of readers no less easily provoked, we are not without our own causes for counter-complaint. *Surgit amari aliquid*, which, amid all the usual pleasantness of our work, tries at times our temper and our patience. I do not know that the agreeable essayist who writes, among other matters, "Concerning Worry," has dealt specially with the troubles that beset the path of the librarian. To say nothing of the usual "enemies of books," the dust and damp and mildew and other agencies at the command of *edax vetustas* for the corruption of our treasures, and of the foes belonging to our own kindred, who, if they do not steal, mutilate and disfigure, or otherwise abuse instead of using them, and apparently act on the principle that the chief end of law is to encourage transgression, have we not professional trials that come specially home to us? Are there not binders who misplace sheets or misletter volumes? Are there not printers who misread our names or dates with ingenuous simplicity, or with perverse ingenuity transform our letters into some strange similitude of sound and divergence of sense? Are there not publishers who are continually devising modifications of size and shape beyond the possibility of any notation keeping pace with them; who serve up reprints as new editions, or—worse still—under new titles; or begin books which they never finish; or keep continuations in progress till

the latter phase of the book has no real continuity with its earlier stages; or issue indices or supplements ten years after the work to which they belong has been catalogued and bound; or—what is the most unpardonable of all—send forth their publications without the trace of a date? Are there not managers or directors desirous to exercise the more or less brief authority with which they are vested, possessed with the belief that they have an innate knowledge of what is requisite to our office outweighing all our experience, eager to suggest new methods that have been long since tried and found wanting? Have we not to encounter old-fashioned conservatives averse to the introduction of any change, and revolutionary new-comers ready to upset all our arrangements for continuity? Are there not some whose interest lies within a very limited circle, and who are incapable of entering into the wider feelings and sympathies of others? Are there not partisans of the ancients or the moderns, who would practically revive "the Battle of the Books;" some who would forbid novels, others who would banish sermons; men of exact science, who have little relish for literature or art, and who look with a sublime contempt on metaphysics and all speculation; poetic dreamers or philosophic theorists, who would have everybody absorbed in their ideals, or prosaic realists who regard with pity such pursuits as profitless and vain? Who can hope to meet, so as to satisfy, the claims of all? It may well seem surprising if, with such possibilities and perplexities in our way, we are able to retain our serenity; but these things after all do not greatly move us, because we are sustained by the knowledge that the great majority of those with whom we come into contact are reasonable, moderate in their demands, tolerant and indulgent towards our shortcomings, and ready heartily to appreciate, and to co-operate with, our efforts.

We can thus afford to be good-natured; and so I now venture, before concluding, to touch on one or two points in which, if it is needless to complain of the past, its experiences suggest at least considerable scope for amendment and relief in the future. My observations—I need hardly say—are prompted not so much by regard for the mere personal convenience of the librarian as by the wish to procure greater facilities for his work in the common interest of all for whom it is undertaken. There are three standing sources of endless trouble to librarians, for which, as it seems to me, there is not in the great majority of cases any adequate *raison d'être*, and which a very little forethought on the part of authors, or of their publishers, who are often *participes criminis*, might either obviate entirely or greatly lessen.

1. The first of our easily reducible grievances, is the still considerable proportion of anonymous or pseudonymous publications. The old controversies as to the best mode of entering such works in our catalogues may now be deemed set at rest by the general adoption of the British Museum rule. But it is rightly regarded as desirable, if not needful, for the completion of the librarian's task that he should endeavour to lift the veil, which the author's modesty, or perhaps as frequently his eccentricity or his caprice has induced him to draw over his work. What the author has sought to conceal, it is the aim and triumph of the librarian to bring to light. We are reluctant to be baffled, and but few of us can tell, even approximately, the amount of time expended on what is often a profitless quest.

We should be deeply ungrateful not to acknowledge the manifold help of those whose researches have lightened our labours—of Barbier and Quérard, of Melzi and Weller, and of our own Halkett, whose work taken up and continued by successive

pious hands we are glad to hail as at length completed, and as forming with all its imperfections, a noble monument to his memory; while the librarians of the future will be benefited still more than we are by the priceless gift of the Museum Catalogue, for which, I believe, we are specially indebted to the energy of our eminent colleague, Mr. Bond, who has just entered on his well-earned retirement.

But the question now is, how much of this expenditure of research might well be spared in the future? Some, no doubt, will be ready to ask, why should all this trouble be taken? If a man desire to remain unknown, or to wear a mask, why should we not respect his wish, and leave him undisturbed? If he call himself *Nemo*, why should we not take him at his word, and abstain from effort to make him out Somebody, or anybody in particular? But it may safely be presumed that, to say nothing of the pride that apes humility, most persons who write believe that they have something to say, and desire to have ultimately the credit of having said it; and, while we do not deny that in some cases there may be sufficient reasons for a temporary disguise, in the great majority, it must be held that the disguise is needless, and that its assumption involves a very unnecessary addition to the labour of the librarian, and to the bulk of the catalogue. Assuming that 500 copies of an anonymous or pseudonymous book find their way into public libraries, this means that 500 enquiries must be instituted as to the authorship, and 500 entries be made of the requisite cross-reference, when the authorship has been ascertained. What excuse or justification can an author plead at his own bar, or at that of the public, whose servants' time he consumes, for thus veiling his identity—the more especially if his secret aim is that of being eventually found out?

2. Another grievance is that, when we have got our author's name, we have too often but half got it. He is no longer *Nemo*, or *Ignotus*, or *Aliquis;* he stands so far revealed as—let us say—"Smith." At times we may not have so much as the clue of initials to his Christian name, but, if we advance a stage and encounter "J. Smith," we are perplexed by possibilities, not only of the usual James or John, but of Jacob, Jeremiah, Joseph, Jane. Under a caprice of fashion, moreover, which has become specially prevalent of late years, many people who have had the good or bad fortune to receive at the hands of their parents a middle name have chosen to signalise themselves—not perhaps unreasonably—from the common herd of Smiths, by bringing into prominence, with the help of a hyphen or without it, the second name, and thus we have Mr. Howard Smith, Mr. Douglas Smith, and the like, but—apart from the difficulty of determining whether the compound name is to be treated as an inseparable unit, or dealt with by double entry—it very generally happens that the prominence thus given to the second name throws the first into the shade, or reduces it to a mere initial, so that the unfortunate cataloguer has no means of knowing whether the prefixed letter P. represents Patrick, Peter, or Plantagenet. Why should there be any concealment, suppression or abridgment in the case? Why should a man hesitate to give his name in full, or at least—what is most important for our purpose—his Christian name, so that he may be assigned at once to his proper place in the catalogue? Why should librarians in these days of abounding work, have the trouble of searching Army Lists or College Calendars, Clerical or Medical Directories, the pages of Lorenz or Kayser, to find out what might be so easily given at first hand? Moreover, why should the half-named author not lay claim in full to the merit of his work, and prevent its being credited to another? And why should he bring ever so many innocents, possessing the

same initials, into the counter-risk of being credited or discredited with its authorship? There seems no reason why the law of copyright should not require an author to give his name in full. At any rate the toiling librarian may well ask authors, who have possibly never thought of the matter under this aspect, to facilitate by so simple a process the attribution of the *Suum cuique*. Even when we have the name in full, there is difficulty enough in assigning to the owners of the same name through successive generations their respective works, as in the case of the well-known Scotch name of Skinner, where the labours of three generations are accumulated on the head of the venerable grandfather, even in the careful catalogue of the Advocates' Library. Why should our difficulties in this matter be indefinitely multiplied?

3. The third grievance has reference to the title itself, which is often so obscure, far-fetched or positively misleading as to stand seriously in the way of rational classification. The great majority of authors are, of course, frank and sensible enough to say directly what they mean or believe themselves to mean; and in nine cases out of ten this title is a trustworthy key, if not to what the book is, at any rate to what its author wishes it to be taken for; but in the tenth case it is something fantastic, occult, eccentric, more ingenious than ingenuous, designed to whet curiosity or even to baffle conjecture—a sphinx if not a chimæra. We need not pause to enquire into the motives of these caprices. One can easily understand how they should flit across the fancy of a humourist like Charles Lamb or Leigh Hunt as the titles of imaginary volumes, but not so well why they should be placed deliberately in front of what is meant to be real and permanent.

The question is, What is to be done with them when we find them? Although we may not go so far as literally to affirm that "the librarian who reads is lost," and may even hold it to be one of the compensations of his otherwise monotonous toil that he may indulge in a furtive glance at the inviting pages as they pass through his hands, we must protest against the notion that it is any necessary part of a librarian's duty to read books for the purpose of ascertaining their contents and of remedying the neglect of the author. The reader, indeed, may be pleased to have an enigma set for him, which finds its solution only at the close of the volume; the librarian has something else to do; and, whatever may be the *amour propre* of an author, it seems to ask more than is due, when it requires that the—let us say again—500 persons, whose professional duty it is to classify the work, shall examine it more or less fully in order to ascertain its contents, while others, in like case, have the judgment and the candour to make the title-page tell at once and sufficiently their aim. If the author alone were concerned, we should make short work with him; we should take no trouble to discover the meaning which he had wrapped in mystery, and we should relegate his work to the limbo where similar problematical shelf-mates lie forgotten. But, having duties to the public whom we serve, we may not rest content with meting out to the author this just retribution, and we may at least reasonably call upon him to save himself from deserving it. To the chartered libertines of fiction who are ever in quest of piquant novelties all things may be lawful; but in more serious matters, while we do not grudge to an author or publisher the conceit of a telling title, such as Excelsior, we may also ask some more explicit utterance to guide us to what should be the place of the work—in Astronomy, Metaphysics, Theology or Hallucination?

The demands on your time, and the limits of your patience forbid me to dwell on other topics, on which at such a time I might fitly have touched—on the fortunes and

progress of our Association, and its contributions to the furtherance of our common objects; on the latest accessions of support to the cause of Free Libraries, and the failure of our hopes in quarters where some of us had confidently reckoned on success; on the growth of bibliographic interest, and the correlative literature as seen in the preparation of fresh or of improved catalogues, and in the accumulation of special helps for the various departments of our work, whether these may have come from the zeal of our friends at home, from the skill of experts in Germany, France, or Italy, or from the enterprise of our colleagues in the "chosen land" of libraries, where Mr. Justin Winsor and his associates pursue their unwearied labours "esteeming nothing done, while aught remains to do." These efforts in our own field enlist our special sympathies, and call forth our warmest thanks; but I may perhaps be pardoned if I pass for a moment beyond the province of bibliography, and venture to express the interest with which every member of the Association hails the progress of two monumental enterprises of our own day—Dr. Murray's Dictionary of the English Language, and Mr. Leslie Stephen's Dictionary of National Biography, and to suggest that, as these works should certainly have a place in any public library, however small, nothing could more effectually combine a local benefit with a public service, and more blamelessly earn the credit in these latter days of a patron of letters, than the presentation of such books, volume by volume as they appear, on the part of men of means to the public institutions of their neighbourhood. On the other hand it might not perhaps be seemly, and it would certainly be useless to express the wish—however much one is tempted to indulge it, as one looks on at the constantly increasing stream of literary production in the present, and of reproduction of the past, with which we strive in vain to keep pace—that something might be left for posterity to do.

I cannot doubt that, although Glasgow falls far short of some of the cities which this Association has already visited in the extent and variety of its features of bibliographic interest, it will gladly submit to your inspection such possessions as it has. The Corporation bids you welcome on behalf of the city. The University invites you to visit its library; and my colleague, Dr. Young, will be ready to show you some of the well nigh unique Hunterian treasures under his care. At the Mitchell Library you will have the opportunity of admiring the energy with which Mr. Barrett has rapidly formed and administers a great collection, and the patience with which he awaits a more secure and worthier abode for it at the hands of the Municipality, or of some public-spirited citizen who shall emulate and surpass the service rendered by Mr. Carnegie to Edinburgh. When you visit Stirling's library you will find an old institution vigorously reformed, and a new one growing up by its side in supplement of its work; while at the Libraries of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons and of the Procurators you will see the advantage of more limited aims and more concentrated resources in the ampler representation of professional literature. Last, but not least, if Glasgow cannot show any such private library as was formerly at Hamilton or is still happily at Keir, it contains a number of private collections reflecting the various culture of their owners. Mr. Mason's carefully prepared book has already made known *urbi et orbi* as much of the character of these treasures as will stimulate your desire to see them; and their possessors will doubtless be glad to gratify, so far as your time and convenience allow, the curiosity which that partial disclosure has awakened, and to show that we have among us not a few who love books and, loving them, honour the office and the work of the librarian.

BOOKS, ANCIENT AND MODERN[1] (*continued*).

By William E. A. Axon.

I think sometimes that the way of using books ought to be taught in schools. Many even amongst educated persons are very much at sea when they are turned into a library to find out what they want. I have always held that the very best help to the use of a public library is the librarian. If you want to know what are the best books upon any particular subject, you will find Mr. Sutton and his colleagues will freely and cheerfully put at your service all the knowledge and the information they possess from their many years of experience. But beyond that of course there is the use to be made of bibliographies, of lists in encylopedias, &c. If a young man wants to read and is at a loss how to proceed, I should advise him to make a start with the subject in which he is interested. No subject stands alone, for there are lines connecting each with every other department of human knowledge; and it is by following these, our education is accomplished. At school they only give the instruments for human knowledge, and in the universities not much more. Every man and every woman must, after all, educate themselves, for in literature, as in religion, you must work out your own salvation. Why do we want you to read? There were ages of the world when people did without it! We want people to read that they may be thoroughly informed upon the affairs of their daily life; and that they may be influenced by the best thoughts of those who have gone before. A good book, written by a master spirit, is an education. It is an influence which does not diminish with the progress of centuries. Indeed, if you look at it in that way, a book is one of the most wonderful things in the world. You take a classical book in your hand. The man who wrote it has been dead these two thousand years. The religion that he believed in has passed away; the civilization of his time has fallen into ruins; the great empire of which he was a subject is also a thing of the past. Yet this book remains—a still small voice that comes to us across that vast abyss of centuries, and speaks to our minds and hearts. I believe in the influence of literature upon life, and hold that men are better for reading; better for familiarity with the great thinkers and the great moralists. I believe in the influence of literature not only upon the individual but upon the life of the community. Sometimes when speaking to my fellow citizens I have ventured to put before them what the ideal community should be. I do not pitch my hopes very high, but if our civilization is worthy to endure, it will give us a city where the air is pure, where the streams are not polluted, where children do not die before their time; a city where there is sympathy between rich and poor; a city where all the inhabitants, old and young, rich and poor, can live in constant communication with the master minds of the past. Contrast this rough sketch of the city that ought to be, and contrast it with this city in which we are to-night with its impure air, its high death rate, and its polluted streams. We might transform it into that ideal city. The materials are here at our hands. On these shelves is the information which would help us to make Manchester a healthy and delightful place to live in. What we want is to apply to these problems of the age of great cities our brains and our consciences: then the change can be affected. "Let knowledge grow from more to more," and let it be applied to arts of life; to the increased health of the community, to the increased peace and contentment of the people, so that the poorest in the land may have a life worth living.

[1] An address delivered in the Deansgate Branch Library, February 15th, 1888, as one of a series of lectures delivered at the request of the Manchester Free Libraries Committee.

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

At a Meeting of Council, on August 3rd, a resolution of condolence and regret was passed upon the death of Mr. Overall.

Mr. E. C. Thomas has been seriously indisposed since the Glasgow meeting, and has been ordered rest from all work. He hopes shortly, however, to be able to reply to his correspondents.

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING.

The October Monthly Meeting was held at Gray's Inn Library on Friday, October 5th, at 7.30 p.m., Mr. H. R. Tedder (and afterwards Mr. Cecil Davis) in the Chair. There was a good attendance.

Mr. Tedder, on behalf of the Council, explained the financial position of the Association, and showed that on the present income it was impossible to carry on the affairs of the Association—unless it was decided to do without any periodical publication, or organ of any kind.

Mr. Humphery, one of the Auditors, stated that his colleague and himself long ago foresaw that the present subscription would be quite inadequate for the needs of the Association, and he strongly urged that it be increased to a guinea.

Mr. Gilburt felt sure that the Members of the Association would cordially respond to the Council's proposal if, on their side, the Council would give some guarantee that the *Chronicle* should appear punctually.

Mr. Tedder, in reply, stated that if the funds were forthcoming the Council would give a pledge that their organ would appear punctually in future.

A very full discussion followed, and it was unanimously agreed that the Secretaries be instructed to take the necessary steps to call a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING to be held in London on Wednesday, December 5th, at 2 p.m., for the purpose of raising the annual subscription to one guinea, without entrance fee, to be payable on the 1st of January in each year; and to raise the life subscription to fifteen guineas.

[*The Council hope that Country Members will communicate their opinions on these proposals before the next Monthly Meeting*].

Mr. MacAlister laid on the table a draft circular, announcing the proposed formation of a Library Bureau. The project was warmly approved, and it was hoped that, for their own sakes, Members of the Association would give it their hearty support.

A letter was read from Mr. Elliott, Belfast, asking that a representative of the Association should be present at the opening ceremonies of the Free Public Library; and it was unanimously resolved that Mr. W. Lane Joynt be requested to attend on behalf of the Association.

Library Notes and News.

BELFAST.—The Belfast Free Library was opened on October 13th by the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Londonderry. It is proposed to hold an exhibition of paintings and works of art, which is to be continued for one month after the opening ceremony.

BLACKPOOL.—The Free Library Committee have recently decided to open the Library on Sundays from 2 o'clock till 6 o'clock. The step, however, is merely experimental, and will not be persevered in if the Committee find that the number of persons making use of the privilege is not sufficient to warrant the change.

BOLTON. — Arrangements have been made for a public meeting, to be addressed by Lord Hobhouse, early next month, in favour of the Sunday opening of the Libraries and Museum in the town. The promoters have gained the support of a number of influential gentlemen, including

several members of the Corporation. The proposal to establish a new Central Lending Library on the Town Hall Square, at a cost of £4000, has been withdrawn.

BRADFORD.—At a recent meeting of the Bradford Town Council, a recommendation was received from the Free Library Committee to open the Library on Sundays from 6 until 9 o'clock in the evening, instead of from 2 to 6 in the afternoon. The recommendation was ultimately referred back to the Committee for reconsideration.

BRIGHTON.—At a meeting of the Town Council, held August 3rd, the Pavilion Committee presented a report recommending the establishment of a Lending Library in connection with the present Free Reference Library, and the appointment of a librarian. The report, which proposed that the Lending Library should be established in the Chess Room, was adopted. Mr. F. W. Madden has been chosen librarian. There were 150 candidates.

BRISTOL.—An enquiry has been held at the Town Hall by the Local Government Board into an application of the Council for power to borrow £1,600 to erect a Branch Reading Room in the lower part of the town. A sum of £200 contributed towards the institution will be used for furnishing the buildings.

CAIRNCASTLE.—A Free Library is about to be opened in Cairncastle. It has been established at the old schoolhouse, and the promoters expect to be able to start with a numerous and well-selected stock of books.

CHESTER.—The Mayor of Chester has presented to the city a new Reading Room, which has cost £1,000. The building, which adjoins the Free Public Library, was formally opened on August 1.

CUMNOCK.—The town of Cumnock, which has lately built a Town Hall, is to be provided with a Reading Room and Museum, under the will of the late Mr. John Baird.

EDINBURGH.—An alteration in the original plan of the Edinburgh Free Library Buildings has been authorized, whereby more storage room for books will be obtained. The architect estimates the cost of the change at about £500.

GRANGEMOUTH.—A cheque for £900 has been received from Mrs. Andrew Carnegie towards the building of the Victoria Free Library. It has been agreed to present Mrs. Carnegie with an address and a photograph of the building.

HALIFAX.—There is a proposal on foot to buy the late Sir Francis Crossley's mansion, "Belle Vue," for the use of the Free Library. It is understood that the building can be bought very cheaply, and the site is said to be well suited for the purpose.

HINCKLEY.—The Acts have been adopted here. A building, as we have already stated, has been presented to the town by Messrs. Atkins, and the Local Board have been appointed trustees.

HULL.—Hull still refuses to rank itself with those towns whose superior intelligence has led them to adopt the Acts. Once more the ratepayers have rejected the proposal of their intellectual leaders by a large majority. The figures were:—For, 5,370, and against, 13,664; majority against, 8,294. Papers void, 7,926. On the occasion of the vote taken a few years ago the numbers were:—For, 4,212; against, 5,889; majority against, 1,677.

INVERNESS.—On September 29th the news-room in connection with the Inverness Free Library was closed, and henceforth the lending and reference library will only be open from five to seven o'clock each day. This resolution has been come to because of the financial position of the Library. A return obtained by the Committee some time ago showed that no fewer than 811 volumes were missing, and that on the 30th September, 1887, there was a sum of £726 odd due to the bank, in addition to the authorised debt secured by mortgage on the Library rate.—*Scotsman*, *Oct.* 1, 1888.

LIVERPOOL.—It is proposed by the Library and Museum Committee of the Corporation to obtain an amendment to the Liverpool Library and Museum Act, 1852, to the following effect:—"That the establishment and maintenance of Lending Libraries and Reading Rooms within the

city shall be deemed to be within the meaning of the establishment and maintenance of a Public Library under the Liverpool Library and Museum Act 1852, and all the provisions of that Act shall apply accordingly." The Committee will also ask the Council to sanction the proposal that the sum of £3,000 should be appropriated out of the capital personal estate for the purpose of defraying the cost of the erection of a new Lending Library in Kensington-fields, according to the plans approved by the Council last July.

LONDON: BRITISH MUSEUM.—In the Annual Report attention is again called to the inadequacy of the present Reading Room for the accommodation of the ever-increasing number of applicants for admission. In 1885 it was stated that the number of visitors to the room had risen during the preceding ten years from 105,310 to 159,340; and in 1887 it has advanced to 182,778. No further addition can (it is stated) be made to the number of seats without inconveniently diminishing the desk space allotted to each reader. The room is frequently over-crowded; and what is to be feared is that literary men engaged in genuine research will gradually find themselves pressed out of the use of the room by the throng of readers for general information. The wants of this numerous class of visitors will be better satisfied in a separate room, suitably furnished with modern works; and, unless the principle of limiting admission to the present Reading Room to purposes of research is adopted, which cannot be recommended, and would indeed be extremely difficult to enforce, a measure of this nature may be considered indispensable.

LONDON: BATTERSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—The first of these Libraries will be opened in Lammas Hall, Bridge Road West, Battersea, on Thursday, October 25th, by Mr. O. V. Morgan, M.P. for Battersea. It contains about 5,000 volumes, which will be issued for home reading. Plans are under consideration for another building, and the erection of a third will shortly be commenced. Mr. William Bridle, formerly of the Cardiff Free Library, has been appointed sub-librarian.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL. Mr. H. W. Fincham, a Member of the L. A. U. K., has been appointed one of the Commissioners of the Free Library. Mr. J. D. Brown, of the Mitchell Library, has been elected Librarian, and the Library will be opened in temporary premises very shortly. A catalogue of the books presented by Mr. Robert Holborn (about 1,000 volumes) has been issued. Other donations of books have been received, and the Marquis of Northampton has given a site for a permanent building in St. John's Road.

LONDON: FULHAM.—It is hoped that the Reading Room and Lending Department of the Free Library will be opened this month.

LONDON: KENSINGTON. — The Local Government Board has agreed to the proposal of the Free Library Commissioners to establish a Branch Library for Brompton at 58, Clareville Grove, Gloucester Road. Tenders for carrying out the necessary alterations have been received, and the work will be commenced at an early date. Mr. Wm. Wadley, of the Central Free Library, Birmingham, has been appointed sub-librarian of the Kensington Public Libraries.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—The first of the five Free Public Libraries to be established in the Parish of Lambeth, viz. that at West Norwood, was opened on July 28th by the Earl of Northbrook. Addresses were also given by Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P., the Hon. and Rev. F. G. Pelham, Chairman of the Free Library Commissioners, and others.

MOSS SIDE.—A committee has been appointed to take all the steps necessary to establish a Free Library and News Room.

NEWCASTLE.—The educational classes which for the last ten years have been conducted in connection with the Free Library, and which have been gradually falling off for some time, are to be transferred, with the apparatus, &c., to Dr. Rutherford's educational institution in Bath Lane.

NORTHAMPTON. — The Local Government Board recently has held an enquiry into the application of the Town Council for powers to borrow on behalf of the

Museum Committee £500 for the purpose of carrying out the extension necessary to make additional accommodation for the Free Libraries, the cost of which is estimated at £685. The Committee have in hand £180—a moiety of the Jubilee Fund.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Nottingham Free Public Libraries and Museum Committee, at a meeting held in the University College, have decided to form a Lending Library in connection with the Reading Room in Willoughby Street, Lenton. The work of forming and cataloguing the library has been begun.

SALFORD.—The Free Libraries in Salford were opened for the first time on Sunday, September 2nd, from 2 till 9 o'clock. The attendance was small.

SELKIRK.—Mr. Craig Brown has presented to the Town Council the old prison, which he purchased some months ago, for use as a Free Library. All the necessary alterations to fit the building for its new purpose have been made by the donor, who has also promised to pay the cost of maintenance for two years.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Mr. Oswald T. Hopwood, Assistant Librarian at the Atkinson Free Library, Southport, has been appointed Librarian of the Corporation of Southampton.

STALYBRIDGE.—The scheme for taking over the premises of the Mechanics' Institution having fallen through, the Town Council have decided to establish the Free Library in the Town Hall.

STROUD.—A canvas of the residents in Stroud having resulted in a refusal to adopt the Free Libraries Act, Mr. P. G. Strachan, a wealthy resident, has presented a suitable building and £600 towards establishing a Free Library. Other local gentlemen have also helped, and a fund of £3,500 has been raised. The opening ceremony took place on September 15, Mr. George Holloway, M.P., accepting the building on behalf of the trustees.

TREDEGAR.—An effort is to be made during the coming winter to agitate in favour of adopting the Acts.

WHITEHAVEN.—A proposal to hand over the effects of the Whitehaven Working Men's Reading Room to the Free Library has been rejected by a large majority.

WE have received the Report of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery of South Australia for 1886-7 (Adelaide, 1887, fol., pp. 31). The number of vols. in the library was 24,662, being an increase of 1,507. The visits to the library were 91,089, to the Museum 71,289, and to the Art Gallery 63,857. The reading-room was well attended, but no statistics are kept. The number of affiliated institutes was 136, of which 129 have libraries, numbering 114,162 vols., with a circulation for the year of 204,200. The number of book-boxes in circulation was 179, of which 23 were German. The Government grant for the year was £5,865, besides the grant for the Institutes of £2,557 4s.

Mr. A. W. Robertson, Librarian of the Aberdeen Public Library, has invented an ingenious improvement on existing indicators. He calls it the "Duplex Indicator," and claims for it many points not possessed by its rivals. It will be one of the great advantages of the *Bureau*, when established, that those interested will be able to judge of the respective merits of such inventions by an examination of working models on the spot.

OUR friend Mr. Barrett received the compliment of a very appreciative biographical notice in *The Bailie* (Sept. 5th), a smartly written Glasgow weekly. It was accompanied by a really excellent portrait. We learned for the first time from this article that Librarians were, as a rule, "somewhat absent and not a little timid in their manner."

A familiar figure was missed at the Glasgow Meeting that now we regret to record has passed away from amongst us. We refer to Miss Stamp, for so many years Librarian of the Notting Hill Free Public Library. For a long time she was the only representative of Lady Librarianship we had, and no one who attended our Conferences was more enthusiastic for the welfare of the L.A.U.K., or more faithful in attendance at the meetings. We are sure all who knew her will regret that her well earned rest has merged so quickly into that which knows no ending.

Correspondence.

An Early Proposal for Parochial Libraries.

13, *The College, Glasgow, September* 15, 1888.

Sir,—At one of the meetings of the Library Association, Mr. Blades produced a pamphlet found in the library at Wigan, entitled "An Overture for Founding and Maintaining Bibliothecks in every Paroch," dated 1699, and he expressed a wish to have some information as to its authorship.

Professor Ferguson has shown to me a copy of the pamphlet in his possession, bound up with another tract that throws some light on its probable origin. The latter bears the date of 1702, and is entitled "A Copy of a Letter Anent a Project for Erecting a Library in every Presbytery or at least County in the Highlands: from a Reverend Minister of the Scots Nation now in England, to a Minister at Edinburgh. With reasons for it, and a scheme for erecting and preserving these libraries. Edinburgh: Printed by George Mosman." It contains the following statement, printed at the end:—"The author of this letter is a Person who hath a great zeal for propagating the knowledge of God in the Highlands of Scotland, and is the same who did promote contributions for the Printing of Bibles in the Irish language, and sent so many of them down to Scotland; and there is no news he more earnestly desires to know than what the G. A. doth when ever it meeteth for promoting the interests of the Gospel in the Highlands."

The writer thus identifies himself with the Rev. James Kirkwood, who gives an account of his plan for printing the Irish Bible for the use of the Highlands in some correspondence with the Hon. Robert Boyle regarding it, which is printed as an appendix to Birch's "Life of Boyle," prefixed to the first volume of his works. James Kirkwood was a native of Dunbar, who became minister of Minto in 1679, but was deprived, on account of the Test Act in 1681, and about 1684 was, through the influence of Dr. Gilbert Burnet, instituted Rector of Astwick in Bedford. (See Dr. Scott's "Fasti.") The General Assembly of 1704 passed an Act declaring their approbation of the project, empowering application to the Treasury for assistance in bringing down the books from England, and fixing the places where the Libraries were to be stationed. The minutes of that Assembly also show that they agreed to an elaborate set of rules "about the ordering and preserving the Libraries in the Highlands and Islands," that they directed a letter of thanks to be sent to the Society in England for Propagating Christian Knowledge, and that they recommended "Mr. George Meldrum to draw a copie of a letter to Mr. James Kirkwood at London, who has been very instrumental in advancing the design of the said Libraries."

There can be little doubt that the overture of 1699 proceeded from the same hand which subsequently drafted the project of 1702. Miller in his "History of Dunbar," states that Mr. Kirkwood in 1708 bequeathed a number of letters and papers to a library belonging to the Presbytery of Dunbar, and, after an account of his exertions for the printing of the Irish Bible, adds:—"A library was also established for the clergy in the Highlands by Mr. Kirkwood in 1699, a catalogue of which is preserved in his MS. papers." The date is that of the overture, and the "catalogue," if it still exists, would throw some light on his design. Perhaps some member of the Dunbar Presbytery may look into the matter.—I am, &c. William P. Dickson.

Anonymous Books.

In reply to "B." (*Library Chronicle*, June-July, p. 84), I send the following:—"A Year with the Birds" is by the Rev. W. W. Fowler, M.A., who has lately published another similar work, entitled "Tales of the Birds." "Dame Durden," "Fragoletta," "Like Dian's Kiss," and "Vivienne," are by Mrs. Otto Booth.

Subscription Library, Hull. W. G. B. Page.

"St. Bernards" was written by Edward Berdoe, M.R.C.S.—J. Y. W. M.

Printed and published by J. Davy & Sons, *at the Dryden Press*, 137, *Long Acre, London. Annual Subscription, post free*, 8*s.*

The Library Chronicle.

ELZEVIER BIBLIOGRAPHY.

By Richard C. Christie.

To judge by the use made by novelists and essayists of Aldines and Elzeviers, these words would seem to be synonyms for rare books. Priceless Aldines and Elzeviers are almost exclusively the books that fill the libraries of bibliophiles, as they are recorded in the pages of our popular novelists, all Aldines and Elzeviers are treated as books of great rarity, and Mr. Andrew Lang, in a delightful article in the *Magazine of Art* (May, 1884), cites a lady novelist who mentions an Elzevier Theocritus, and quotes from Mr. Hepworth Dixon a notice of an Elzevier Greek Testament "worth its weight in gold." To the young collector as to the novelist every Aldine and every Elzevier, whatever its condition, is rare and worth buying, and it is only after some painful experience that he learns that Aldines and Elzeviers are as common as blackberries, that of the majority of them it is only when they are in fine condition that they are worth buying, and that only a few Elzeviers, such as Le Pastissier François, the Imitatio without date, the Cæsar of 1635, the Virgil of 1636, and the Corneille of 1644, are really rare and desirable to the collector, whatever their condition. The majority of the Elzeviers are only worth collecting when they are tall and fine copies, and of no class of books is the value so dependent upon the height. As Mr. Lang remarks—"the Philistine may think a few millimètres more or less in the height of an Elzevier are of little importance. When he comes to sell he will discover the difference. An uncut, or almost uncut, copy of a good Elzevier may be worth fifty or sixty pounds or more; an ordinary copy may bring fewer pence."

An ordinary Elzevier indeed is less worth buying and less thought of by collectors than an ordinary Aldine. Every book printed by the elder Aldus, whatever its condition, is worth possessing, and to form a complete collection of the Aldine series, though an impossible task, is no unworthy aim for a collector to set before himself, but we should doubt whether anyone has ever desired to possess the 2,000 volumes which are noted in *Les Elzevier* of M. Willems. Many of these in the larger forms, octavos, quartos, and folios, are entirely without interest and without value. It is the "stumpy" duodecimos that are the special objects of the affection of the bibliographer. The taste for Elzeviers, as that for other classes of books, has had its vicissitudes. After

rising to a considerable height, it fell off greatly, but in the last few years the taste has revived, and really fine Elzeviers, like really fine books of every kind, now fetch prices quite equal to those of the days of the Roxburghe Club.

In the present paper I do not propose to give any account of the Elzeviers, or their presses, or the volumes that issued from them, but, having regard to the numerous works on the subject which have appeared during the present century, I think it may not be useless to the members of the Library Association to mention and characterise these, with a view of aiding librarians in their selection of an Elzevier bibliography to place upon their shelves.

It was not until the year 1822, when the rage for Elzeviers was already on the decline, that a separate work on the subject appeared, if we omit the fifteen catalogues printed by the different members of the family, from the Leyden Catalogue of 1628 to that given at Amsterdam in 1681, the four catalogues of miscellaneous books, including many Elzeviers, and the sale catalogues of the typographical material, sold after the death of Daniel Elzevier in 1681, and of Abraham Elzevier in 1713. Three important bibliographical articles had however appeared in the eighteenth century—the *Catalogue des Républiques*, by De La Faye, inserted by Sallengre in his *Mémoires de Littérature*, the chapter which Maittaire devoted to the Elzeviers in the third volume of his *Annales*, and the catalogue given in *L'Art de désopiler la rate*, in 1758. In 1822 M. A. S. L. Bérard gave to the world his *Essai Bibliographique sur les éditions des Elzévirs les plus précieuses et les plus recherchées, précédé d'une notice sur ces imprimeurs célèbres* (Paris, F. Didot, 8vo.) The *Essai* is preceded by a notice of the family of the Elzeviers, taken though with some additions, from one somewhat more extended written by Père Adry, and inserted in the *Magasin Encyclopédique*, and this forms by far the most valuable part of the book.

The *Essai* is very incomplete and full of mistakes, some of which are almost inevitable in the first book published on such a subject, but others show at once carelessness and ignorance on the part of the author. The book is now absolutely without bibliographical value, can be of no real use to a librarian, and ought never to be cited as an authority, as we frequently see it, in booksellers' catalogues, and sometimes in works of more literary pretension, yet it certainly does not deserve the contempt with which it is treated by M. Willems, and from its publication in 1822, until the appearance of the first edition of M. Pieter's book in 1851, it ranked, as it was entitled to do, as the most important work for the Elzevirian collector. The author speaks with great modesty of his book; he admit its imperfections, and only hopes that it may serve, as it certainly has done, as a ground-work for more extended and more accurate publications. In the meantime the second and subsequent editions of Brunet's *Manuel* contained special catalogues of the Elzevirian collection, and upon these catalogues and the work of Bérard, added to his own knowledge, Charles Nodier founded his *Théorie complète des éditions elzeviriennes*, published in his *Mélanges tirés d'une petite bibliothèque*, 1829, in which there are suggested for the first time the different classes into which the Elzevier volumes ought to be divided, with rules and principles for distinguishing true Elzeviers from the numerous volumes which were, and still are, commonly included under that name. Upon the publication of the fourth edition of the *Manuel* in 1843, and *à propos* of the Elzevier catalogue therein contained, Charles Motteley, a well-known French bibliophile, who had at that time perhaps the greatest knowledge of the Elzevier editions of any living person, published a tract of no small merit with the title *Aperçu sur les*

erreurs de la bibliographie spéciale des Elzevirs et de leurs annexes, avec quelques découvertes curieuses sur la typographie hollandaise et belge du XVII^e siècle (Paris, Panckoucke, 1847, 12mo.) in which he points out a certain number of errors and omissions of Brunet. "In Motteley," as M. Willems has remarked, "we find two different men; loving books above all things, and having a vast and accurate bibliographical knowledge, he combined the speculator in books with the enlightened bibliographer." In the catalogues of the successive libraries which he formed and sold, his notes were, not unnaturally perhaps, written with a view of enhancing the value of the books, and as Elzeviers were then fetching high prices, he included many among them which had no right to that position. But where he writes independently he always shows himself acute, and may be thoroughly relied on. Hence, while the descriptions and notes in his catalogues are of no value whatever, the tract of which I have just given the title is of great utility to the Elzevier collector, and our only source of regret is that the author has not referred to more than one hundred volumes. A sale catalogue of the collection of Elzeviers and other rare books, composing the cabinet of the Baron de Montaran (Paris, Delion, 1849), and a small and beautifully printed catalogue, chiefly of Elzeviers, on sale by Potier, in 1853, may here be noticed as of great interest to the collector. Each is difficult to meet with, the latter especially so.

It was in 1843 that M. Charles Pieters printed anonymously his *Analyse des matériaux les plus utiles pour de futures annales de l'imprimerie des Elsevier.* Fifty copies only were printed for private circulation, in the hope that it might lead to a more extended publication on the subject, and to communications from those who possessed further information. The hope was not disappointed. The *brochure* fell into the hands of M. Rammelman Elzevier, a direct descendant of Louis the first. It induced him to search among the family papers and the archives of the town and university of Leyden, and the result was the publication by him, in 1845, of a work bearing the following title, *Uitkomsten van een onderzoek omtrent de Elseviers, meer bepaaldelijk met opzigt tot derzelver genealogie. Een noodige voorarbeid tot de geschiedenis der Elsevierscbe drukpers*, Vandermonde, Utrecht, 8vo. (Results of an enquiry concerning the Elzeviers, especially in regard to their genealogies. A preparatory labour necessary for the history of the Elzevirian press). Of this work, written in Dutch, I cannot speak from personal knowledge, but M. Pieters and M. Willems are agreed that it is exhaustive, and leaves nothing to be desired as a biography and genealogy of the members of the family, and that it must ever remain the principal source of information for all that concerns their personal history. In 1847 a certain M. A. de Reume issued a work under the title of *Recherches historiques, généalogiques et bibliographiques sur les Elsevier* (Brussels, 8vo.) It is dedicated to M. Rammelman Elzevier, and purports to be an original and independent work, but is neither more or less than a translation of M. Rammelman Elzevier's book, with a certain quantity of useless and incorrect additions. It is full of the most grotesque blunders; M. de Reume frequently misunderstands the statements of his original, and wherever he ventures upon anything original he commits the most ludicrous mistakes. Willems has cited a few of them. He takes the Piræus for the name of a man, imagines that *Hagæ Comitum* signifies Leyden, and in reference to a book with the well-known fictitious *imprimatur* "Cologne, chez Pierre Marteau" he informs us that a certain Pierre Marteau printed this volume at Cologne for Daniel Elzevier! Yet scarcely any book is more commonly cited. Its single merit is the entertainment which its blunders will afford to the enlightened

reader—an entertainment which cannot but give rise to uneasiness when the book falls into the hands of one who is prepared to accept its statements as accurate.

I have already mentioned that the most valuable part of M. Bérard's *Essai* consisted in his *Notice sur les Elzevirs*, taken almost wholly from a more extended notice inserted by Père Adry in the *Magasin Encyclopédique*. Père Adry had also compiled and, as it seems, prepared for the press a *catalogue raisonné* of Elzeviers in small form, with a chronological list of those in large form, together with much other information on the subject. This manuscript was acquired by M. Pieters at the Bignon sale in 1848 and, with the materials furnished by the work of Rammelman Elzevier, the manuscript of Père Adry, several articles which had appeared in Holland, and other information which had reached him, M. Pieters decided to undertake the History of the Elzeviers, and published in 1851 his *Annales de l'imprimerie elsevirienne, ou Histoire de la famille de Elsevier et de ses éditions* (Gand, 1851, 8vo.) M. Pieters' book was a conspicuous success. It was a great advance on any previous catalogue, and hostile criticism was disarmed no less by its value than by the modesty of its author. A second edition, much enlarged and improved, appeared in 1858, xxxii. + 502 pp. + one page of errata, and in 1860 a supplement of 26 pp. of additions and corrections was issued.

The introduction is chiefly occupied with an analysis of the manuscript of Père Adry, though it also contains a genealogical tree of the fourteen Elzeviers who were booksellers or printers, a description of the catalogues issued by the Elzeviers themselves, with a notice of the family and of the press. The three parts into which the work is divided, comprise excellent biographical accounts of the members of the family; notices of 282 editions which bear the names of Louis Elzevier the first, his sons, and the sons of Matthew from 1583 to 1626; 370 editions of Bonaventure and Abraham Elzevier from 1626 to 1653; 155 editions given at Leyden from 1652 to 1712, with the name of Elzevier on the title; 136 anonymous or pseudonymous editions of the Leyden Elzeviers between 1628 and 1696; 497 editions given at Amsterdam from 1638 to 1681, with the name of Elzevier on the title; 171 anonymous and pseudonymous editions given by the Elzeviers at Amsterdam from 1639 to 1681; 10 given by Pierre Elzevier at Utrecht from 1668 to 1675; 44 editions from 1641 to 1770, bearing the name of Elzevier but not printed by any member of the family; and 354 editions usually annexed to the Elzevier collections.

But a careful examination of M. Pieters' work shows several serious shortcomings; he places far too much reliance on the statements of Adry and Bérard, indeed, whatever he finds in Adry he accepts as absolute fact; and many of the statements of Bérard, which a little investigation would have shown to be erroneous, are also reproduced as accurate. Nor has he made so searching an examination as he ought to have done of the libraries to which he had access, by the aid of which he might not only have corrected several of the errors of his predecessors, but would have added to their catalogues a considerable number of books. His general knowledge of the literature of the 17th and 18th centuries is by no means extensive, and he has thus fallen into errors respecting the books and the authors that he quotes; and, lastly, he has not studied with sufficient precision the peculiarities characteristic of the Elzevier volumes, and thus does not afford sufficient information to his readers to enable them to distinguish a genuine from a false Elzevier.

In the twenty years which followed the publication of the second edition of M.

Pieters' work, several volumes and brochures appeared, each containing matter of interest and supplementing in various ways M. Pieters' book. The titles of the more important of these I enumerate in a note.[1]

In 1880 appeared the great work of Alphonse Willems, *Les Elzevier: Histoire et Annales Typographiques*, Bruxelles, large 8vo., cclix. + 607 pp., which forms a perfect encyclopædia, biographical and bibliographical, of the Elzeviers, their presses, their editions, and their counterfeits. Besides a useful bibliographical introduction on the labours of his predecessors, the first part is occupied by a history of the presses of the several members of the family, a notice of their types, typographical ornaments and marks, their paper, the forms of their volumes, their pseudonyms, their correctors of the press, besides several other matters relating to their editions, and detailed biographies of fourteen members of the family. The second part is a *catalogue raisonné* of their productions. The third part deals with imitations and supposititious works. M. Pieters' book mentions 1622 volumes which he believed to be printed by members of the Elzevier family; M. Willems has added a considerable number, yet he does not admit more than 1608 in all as genuine productions of these printers. He has however noticed 571 among the "Annexes," of which 73 bear the name of Elzevier on the title. It is this work of Willems that every librarian should desire to place upon his shelves. For any practical purposes of utility he may safely dispense with all those that had previously appeared; Willems has corrected the errors of his predecessors, and has incorporated in his work all that is valuable in theirs. In order to decide whether any particular volume has proceeded from the press of the Elzeviers, all that is necessary, in general, is to see whether it is contained in M. Willems' volume. Accurate and sufficient details respecting it will be found there, whether it be really an Elzevier, or a volume that has been formerly, but erroneously, classed among them.[2]

When the really remarkable work of Willems appeared, it was thought that the last word had been said on the subject of the Elzeviers and their editions, yet within only five years from its issue the publication of the beautifully printed and illustrated volume of Dr. Berghman, *Études sur la bibliographie Elzevirienne basées sur l'ouvrage Les Elzevier de M. Alphonse Willems* (Stockholm, 1885, large 8vo, IV + 76 pp. + 18 ff. plates), showed us how greatly it was possible to supplement Willems, and how much useful additional information might be given to the lovers of these printers, and suggested several points

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[1] *Les Elzevir de la Bibliothèque impériale publique de St. Pétersbourg.* St. Pétersbourg, 1862, 8vo.—*Les Elzevir de la Bibliothèque impériale publique de St. Pétersbourg. Catalogue bibliographique et raisonné, publié sous les auspices et aux frais du prince Youssoupoff et rédigé par Ch. Fr. Walther.* St. Pétersbourg, 1864, 8vo.—*Verzeichniss einer Sammlung von Elzevir-Drucken.* Winterthur, 1864, 8vo.—*Recherches sur diverses éditions elzeviriennes extraites des papiers de M. Millot, mises en ordre et complétées par Gust. Brunet.* Paris, 1866, 12mo.—*Les Elzevir de la Bibliothèque de l'Université Impériale de Varsovie.* Varsovie, 1874, 8vo.

[2] It must be borne in mind that neither M. Willems nor M. Pieters include in their works the Academical Theses printed by the Elzeviers. To have done so would have required a further volume of at least equal extent, without in any way adding to the utility of their books, for these Theses have long since ceased to have any interest either literary or otherwise. Willems states that the University of Leyden possesses a complete series of these Theses from the year 1654, amounting to 2737 separate tracts. The total number printed by different members of the Elzevier family, from 1620, would probably not fall much short of 4000 articles. More than once an enthusiastic collector has shown me a tract printed by one of the Elzeviers, and informed me with great satisfaction that it was "unknown to Willems," and I fear he has felt a little mortified to learn that it was an Academical Thesis, which did not come within the scope of Willems' work.

on which it is clear the last word has not even yet been spoken. It is from an examination and a comparison of the types, fleurons, vignettes and tail-pieces employed by the Elzeviers, that it is possible to ascertain with some degree of precision and accuracy, whether a volume is or is not the product of an Elzevier press. It was Millot who first perceived that it was only by such an examination and comparison that the many difficult problems relating to the Dutch presses of the 17th century could be solved, and the results of his examination were given to the world by Gustave Brunet in the *Recherches* before cited. Willems proceeded on the same track and added greatly to the results obtained by Millot, but it has been reserved for the Scandinavian bibliographer to advance still further in this direction and to reduce this investigation to a system. Dr. Berghman's volume is of great interest; it gives us the most precise details of every variety of type, title-page, fleuron, vignette, tail-piece, ornament, and typographical mark used by the different members of the family, and the book is illustrated with no less than 470 different engravings, representing every typographical mark, vignette, tail-piece, and floriated capital which the author has been able to discover. Of floriated capitals he finds no less than 396 varieties. His book also contains notes on about 70 volumes described by M. Willems, supplementing and correcting the information given in *Les Elzeviers*. Two of these notes will be found of special interest to English librarians. Of the *Defensio Regia pro Carolo I.*, by Salmasius, two editions, one in folio, and one in 12mo, given by Bonaventure and Abraham Elzevier, in 1649, are well-known, and are noticed by Willems, Nos. 657 and 658. Dr. Berghman has pointed out that in addition to the Elzevier duodecimo of 1649, two other editions of the book of the same size, form, title and date appeared, one well executed with 444 pp., the other *détestable*, with 468 pp., neither of them being genuine Elzeviers. An edition of the work of Thomas Fyens, *De viribus imaginationis tractatus*, appeared in 1657, in 12mo, with the *imprimatur*, "Londini ex officina Rogeri Danielis," which has been ascribed both by Pieters and Willems to the Amsterdam Elzevier press. It was printed according to Willems, by Louis and Daniel Elzevier, on account of a London bookseller. Dr. Berghman is certain that this volume was not printed by the Elzeviers of Amsterdam, and is almost certain that it did not issue from any Elzevier press; "il faut la reléguer parmi les faux elzeviers."

The work of Dr. Berghman forms an almost indispensable supplement to that of M. Willems, but unfortunately only 100 copies have been printed, and it is therefore useless to advise bibliographers or librarians to place it on their shelves.[1]

The only work in English devoted to the Elzeviers is one by Mr. Edmund Goldsmid (privately printed by him in his *Bibliotheca Curiosa*) entitled—*A complete Catalogue of all the Publications of the Elzevier Presses at Leyden, Amsterdam, The Hague, and Utrecht, with Introduction, Notes, and an Appendix containing a list of all works, whether forgeries or anonymous publications, generally attributed to these Presses. By Edmund Goldsmid, F.R.H.S., F.S.A. (Scot.) In three volumes. Privately printed. Edinburgh*, 1885. The author describes his book as no more than a revised and abridged translation of the work of Willems. It is a useful compendium of much of

[1] As the book of Dr. Berghman is difficult to obtain, it may not be useless to enumerate the articles contained in *Les Elzevier* of M. Willems which are there supplemented and corrected. Nos. 93, 126, 130, 353, 379, 389, 412, 450, 505, 539, 658, 673, 717, 725, 762, 881, 1014, 1015, 1017, 1021, 1050, 1056, 1110, 1140, 1152, 1157, 1214, 1237, 1299, 1302, 1305, 1358, 1384, 1409, 1441, 1461, 1462, 1525, 1536, 1592, 1599, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1610, 1615, 1616, 1627, 1638, 1639, 1650, 1672, 1742, 1743, 1767, 1823, 1842, 1851, 1926, 1936, 1937.

the contents of Willems, though where I have noticed any variations in the description of the volumes contained in the two works, that in the English abridgment appears to be less accurate than that of the original.[1] Moreover, his abridgments are sometimes misleading, and librarians and collectors must be careful not to accept his statements of the money value of books without referring to Willems' original.[2]

The members of the Elzevier family themselves cannot be compared to the Manutii, either as scholars, or as men of letters, nor have the books printed by them the merits, either literary or typographical, of those given by the founder of the Aldine family, or of many of those of his son and grandson. But though the Elzeviers were mere tradesmen, looking on the books they published simply as commercial speculations, yet their editions, as well for their typographical merit as for the fact that many of them are intrinsically valuable books, must always possess a real and well deserved interest, and an important place in the literary history of modern Europe, so that some knowledge of their character, their merits, and their faults, will always be desirable for the librarian, even though the free libraries of the present and future may perhaps place but few of them on their shelves. The place which is held by Renouard in Aldine bibliography, has been taken and will I think be maintained by Willems, and though supplemented and corrected by Berghman, and perhaps hereafter by others, it is probable that his book will not be superseded, but will remain the standard work on the subject of the Elzevier Bibliography.

GLASGOW AND THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACTS.

By Richard Brown.

The object of this paper is shortly to review the facts connected with the three occasions upon which Glasgow has rejected the Public Libraries Acts, and from the standpoint of an unshaken belief in the beneficial influence of the Acts, to suggest such occasional comment as may be useful in discussion.

The first attempt originated with the Glasgow Philosophical Society, which in December, 1874, appointed a committee of its number on the subject, of which Mr. James Cleland Burns was convener. From this nucleus an influential committee of citizens was formed, who, early in 1876, resolved to bring the question of the adoption of the Acts to the test of a vote. At a meeting of this committee, held on

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[1] In the *Antiquæ Musicæ auctores septem*, given by Meibomius in 1652, the collation of Willems is strictly accurate, giving two preliminary folios each to Aristoxenus, Euclides, and Nicomachus, four to Alypius, two to Gaudentius, and two to Bacchius, whereas in Mr. Goldsmid's book, these folios are inaccurately given as pages. In Mr. Goldsmid's description of the *Catalogus librorum officinæ Elseviriana* of 1638, he gives to it 32 pp. Willems (correctly) gives only 16 pp.

[2] Thus in his description of *La Conjuration du Comte Jean-Louis de Fiesque* (p. 108) he states "It is rare, and fetches about £5."—a somewhat astounding statement. A reference to Willems (p. 344) will show that the two copies mentioned by him as fetching 135 francs, and 110 francs, were in morocco bindings by Trautz-Bauzonnet and Chambolle-Duru respectively, and were of unusual height. Moreover, throughout the work, Mr. Goldsmid frequently writes as though he were giving original matter, when he is merely borrowing from Willems. Thus on the *Medicamentorum Simplicium* of H. a Bra, Mr. Goldsmid's note is—"I mention this book on the authority of Paquot (*Mémoires*, vol. ix, p. 89)" but on a reference to Willems (p. 14) we find the book described, with the note "Cité par Paquot, Mémoires, t. ix, p. 89."

2nd March, 1876, the propriety of holding preliminary district meetings for the purpose of ascertaining the feeling of the ratepayers preparatory to the statutory public meeting was considered but deemed to be unwise.

A requisition in terms of the statute having been signed by over 200 persons, including the three Members of Parliament for the city, it was formally presented to Lord Provost Sir James Bain, who fixed the evening of Monday 17th April, 1876, and the city hall, as the date and place of meeting. The meeting was held as arranged, the Lord Provost presiding. The hall was crowded, part of the gathering consisting of opponents of the Acts, who had met in Glasgow Green and marched in procession headed by an instrumental band. The voting power was limited by the then existing Public Libraries Acts to the Parliamentary constituency, but no provision had been made by the authorities for the exclusion from the meeting of non-voters, or for confining the vote to those entitled to exercise it, so that it is impossible to estimate what proportion of those who voted were duly qualified. The supporters and opponents of the Acts were invited by placard to range themselves on opposite sides of the hall. Admission to the platform was by ticket, and here again a sharp division was made, the supporters being marshalled on the right, and the opponents on the left of the chairman. This arrangement for division into opposing camps was not conducive to the orderly conduct of the proceedings, each side being thereby invited to prove its numerical strength by the united strength of its lungs. In pursuance of a previous arrangement with the Lord Provost, the number of speakers was limited to two on each side; but all the speakers were subjected to frequent interruptions. At the close a vote was taken when the result was found to be as follows:—

Against	1779
For.....	993
Majority against...	786

In reporting to the Philosophical Society the committee of that body intimated that the expenses of the promoters had been entirely defrayed by Mr. J. Cleland Burns, for which liberality he was warmly thanked.

In the year following (1877) a Bill framed by Mr. George Anderson, one of the members for the city, was passed through Parliament, its principal object being to establish a *plébiscite* of the whole ratepayers in regard to adoption as an alternative to the vote of a public meeting.

The question of adoption lay practically dormant for the eight years between 1876 and 1884. Early in the latter year, upwards of ninety gentlemen signed a document calling a meeting of citizens favourable to the adoption of the Acts, to consider the propriety of forming a society for promoting the object in view. The signatures included the whole of the city Members of Parliament, and the Member for the University, ten members of the Glasgow Town Council, nine members of the Glasgow School Board, five professors of Glasgow University, nine representative clergymen, a large number of leading merchants, manufacturers, and professional gentlemen, and the president, secretary, and other office-bearers of the Glasgow United Trades Council. The meeting was held and a constitution submitted, but out of deference to the opinion of gentlemen then present, who were sanguine enough to suppose that an arduous campaign was not required, the idea of a formal association was abandoned, and the meeting thereupon resolved itself into a committee for the

purpose of promoting the adoption of the Acts. An executive was thereafter appointed, who met fortnightly for a lengthened period, and devoted themselves to the education of the community by the publication and distribution of statements and leaflets explanatory of the objects and operation of the Acts. A system of ward organization was also set on foot, by which each of the sixteen municipal wards in the city was invited to elect a committee for promoting the object in view. Except in one or two cases, where it was judged expedient to work two or more wards together, local ward centres of this description were formed throughout the whole city, each committee having a convener and secretary elected from among themselves. On the whole the ward system worked well in connection with both the *plébiscites* which followed, and in many of the wards it was the means of calling forth earnest and enthusiastic work on the part of the members of the various committees.

In the beginning of 1885 the general committee resolved to convene a large public meeting of citizens favorable to the adoption of the Acts, and a meeting was accordingly held in the City Hall, on 16th February, under the chairmanship of Ex-Lord Provost Ure. The hall was well filled and there was a very numerous and influential platform. In a letter read to the meeting, Mr. Anderson, M.P. apologized for unavoidable absence, and stated as follows, "I was much struck on lately visiting the Mitchell Library, at the crowd of readers even in the forenoon for whom the accommodation was inadequate, and also at the risky looking character of the establishment as regards possible fire. I do hope that your efforts will lead to having that fine collection of books more safely housed." In a similar letter also read to the meeting, Principal Caird, of Glasgow University, wrote as follows, "No one I think can read the admirable statement issued by the committee, without becoming convinced that the time has come when Glasgow should no longer remain almost the solitary exception to the other great cities of the empire, which have already adopted the Acts." The chairman, who had just returned from a tour round the world, gave an interesting and graphic account of the free libraries in the Australian colonies, and in Canada, and the United States. Dr. J. A. Campbell, M.P., Rev. Dr. J. Marshall Lang, Professor Jebb, and others, afterwards addressed the meeting. All the resolutions proposed were enthusiastically carried—an attempt at an amendment only finding some half-a-dozen supporters. One of the resolutions so approved, declared that the meeting cordially approved of the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts by Glasgow, and pledged itself to support the committee in their endeavour to obtain this end.

Having thus the sanction of a large meeting of citizens, the committee resolved that it was expedient to bring the matter to a formal vote. A requisition in terms of the Acts was accordingly prepared, and steps were taken to obtain the signatures of householders. Ten only were required, but the requisition as ultimately presented to Lord Provost McOnie contained 1,200 names. In the meantime the usual newspaper war had commenced, and the daily press was loaded with letters for and against the movement. The three Glasgow morning papers did valuable service by enlightened and forcible leaders in favour of the adoption of the Acts, and two out of the three evening papers were also in favour of adoption. The only Glasgow daily newspaper which opposed the movement was the *Evening Citizen*, and it is simple justice to that paper to say that, whether the views it advocated were right or wrong, it proved a formidable champion for the cause it advocated, and was a main factor, both in this *plébiscite* and in the subsequent one, in causing the rejection of the Acts. The

course taken by this valuable and popular evening print is all the more surprising in view of the distinctly literary character of its antecedents, and while granting to the editor the utmost purity of motive and the courage of his opinions, it can scarcely be disputed that its leaders formed a convenient foothold for opposition impelled by motives of a more mixed or doubtful character.

The joint effect of the Act of 1867 and Mr. Anderson's Amendment Act of 1877 was to leave it to the Lord Provost to determine whether the procedure for taking the vote should be by way of public meeting, as on the former occasion, or by *plébiscite* as now authorized. It seemed to be recognized, both by the friends and by the opponents of the Acts, that a vote by public meeting was not appropriate to a city where the largest hall would not accommodate one-thirtieth part of the voters, and where females, though voters, could not be expected to take part in a struggle for entrance. The promotion committee, therefore, in appointing a deputation to present the requisition to the Lord Provost, instructed the members to endeavour to obtain an interview with his Lordship, in order to set these facts before him, and induce him to fix upon a *plébiscite*. The deputation accordingly met the Lord Provost, who fully concurred in their views, but expressed a desire to consult his brother magistrates before finally coming to a determination. A few days afterwards the deputation was asked to meet the magistrates, and, although surprised at such a request from a body which had no official duty or authority under the Libraries Acts, the members willingly attended, under the impression that the only matter to be explained or discussed was the question of public meeting or *plébiscite*. At the meeting, however, they found that one or two of the magistrates, who were pronounced opponents of the Acts, insisted upon discussing the question from the standpoint of alleged "inopportunity of time," a favourite weapon with opponents of Free Libraries at all times and in all circumstances. A newspaper paragraph, professing to give an account of this interview, but evidently inspired by an opponent, appeared in the daily press of the following day. It was calculated to create the erroneous impression that the Lord Provost and magistrates as a body were, at least for the time, in opposition to the movement. No weapon could have been more skilfully handled, and the promoters felt that a dead weight was thus thrown into the scale against them. Opponents, as a rule, immediately ceased opposition on the merits of the question, and emphasized the plea of "inopportunity," which avoided the retort of selfishness or want of public spirit, and formed a convenient pretext for winning over waverers and apathetic persons of all classes. The committee, however, did not relax their efforts. They immediately set to work with redoubled energy to organize district meetings throughout the city, in the hope of thus being able to place the matter fairly before the citizens. Meetings of this description were held in the eastern districts of Parkhead, Bridgeton and Calton, and similar meetings were also held in the northern, western and southern districts. The six meetings thus held were without exception well attended and enthusiastic. Many of the most distinguished public speakers of the city appeared on the various platforms in support of Free Libraries, and, although adverse motions where offered were freely allowed, these met with little or no support.

A *plébiscite* having been arranged, the necessary steps were taken for carrying it out. The Act of 1877, while authorising a *plébiscite* in lieu of a public meeting, provided no machinery, and it was therefore necessary for the Lord Provost and his legal advisers to fix upon the system to be adopted, and to frame the requisite voting

papers and other documents. It was finally resolved to issue to each householder a circular enclosing a postcard addressed to the Lord Provost, which after being filled up affirmatively or negatively, should be signed and posted by the voter. The circular accompanying the postcard had appended to it certain sections of the Libraries Acts of 1867 and 1877 then in force; but the order in which these were quoted, and a reference, without explanation, to an exceptional provision of the Glasgow Police Act, gave rise to a misapprehension that it was optional to the city to impose a higher rate for libraries than one penny per £. Advantage was taken of this by the opponents to such an extent as to necessitate the publication of an emphatic statement to the contrary.

Between the issue of the postcards and the date fixed for their return, the various Ward Committees were very active and made a personal canvass of large portions of the city. This, so far as it went, was found most useful—much of the opposition being grounded on ignorance and apathy, which in the majority of cases was removed by personal contact with the voter. The work although enthusiastic was however imperfectly organized, and irregularly distributed, and considering the size of the constituency it was obviously impossible to penetrate far below the surface without machinery much more comprehensive and thorough.

Somewhat late in the contest an attempt at organized opposition was set on foot, but it was of so feeble a nature, and was in itself so devoid of weight or character, that the promoting committee fell into the not unnatural error of measuring the strength of the opposition by that of its self-assumed champions, forgetful of the dull weight of voting power which needed no organization, and required no information or argument beyond the simple fact that the pocket was affected. An opposing agency, much more powerful and effective than the attempt at organization referred to, existed in the shopkeeping and warehouse class, which in this *plébiscite*, and still more powerfully in the subsequent one, threw its influence into the scale against the Acts. The whole class, even if unanimous, does not in Glasgow much exceed one-fifth of the voting power, and in the case of both *plébiscites* many ardent supporters of the Acts were to be found in its ranks. These however were exceptions, and the class as a whole exercised an influence far beyond its numerical strength. If we take into account the long vistas of streets, forming a network over the whole city, having on each side an almost unbroken line of shops, great and small, we cannot imagine a more convenient and powerful agency either for promotion or opposition. Each of these shops may under the convenership of the shopkeeper form a committee room for opponents, and apart from this the shopkeeper is always at hand to advise his lady customers and their illiterate male friends, as to the meaning of the unwonted circular from the highest civic dignitary, and the additional taxation which it involves. To do the shopkeepers justice, I do not believe that as a rule there was any abuse of this power, or any use of it not perfectly natural in the circumstances. Shopkeepers are not, more than any other class of the community, opposed to the Libraries Acts or to Libraries, but they consider that they have a special grievance in the incidence of taxation as affecting themselves, and as the library rate is the only tax in regard to which the citizens have a direct vote, they not unnaturally oppose adoption, not only for its own sake, but as a protest against the general mode of taxation. It cannot be denied that the complaint is one deserving of consideration, whether it be ultimately found valid or not. I have heard of cases where a shopkeeper or warehouseman pays taxes on several

hundreds of pounds of rental for his business premises, while the profits are so small that he or his family live in a house of £20. rent or under. It may be argued that taxes on a shop are part of the expenses of carrying on the business, and that the prices of a shopkeeper's commodities should be so fixed as to replace the whole of his expenditure, and allow of an adequate income to himself; that the shopkeeper recovers, or should recover, from his customers the whole of his expenditure, taxes included, and a profit besides which is his income. In point of fact, however, as the shopkeeper often knows too well, prices will not so adjust themselves, and while the working man, the clerk, and the employee generally, and also some of the professional classes, pay taxes on house rent only, the commercial classes, and especially warehousemen and shopkeepers, have a large outlay through taxation, which though theoretically recoverable, often brings no return in practical experience. I have tried to state the case of the shopkeeper fairly, because I sympathise with his position, though on the other hand I think it hard that a public movement, admittedly for the good of the community, should be indefinitely kept back because of one very slight addition to a taxation, which so soon as the general grievance is corrected, will also be corrected in this particular. To save recurring again to this subject, I may add here that, shortly before the *plébiscite* of the present year, an influential skopkeeper expressed to me a serious doubt if the shopkeepers of the numerous English cities which are taxed for libraries were handicapped in the same manner as those of Glasgow. To set the doubt at rest, I have since applied for information to Liverpool, Manchester, and Birmingham, the three English cities most nearly allied to Glasgow in population and in the nature of their industries, but I find that the system in each of these cities differs very little from that of Glasgow.

To return to the *plébiscite* of 1885, it only remains to give the result, which was announced by the Lord Provost in the council chamber on the forenoon of Saturday, 9th May, as follows :—

Against.....	29,946
For	22,755
Majority against	7,191

The promotion committee were defeated and disappointed, but not disheartened. Although, under the Scotch Libraries Acts the contest cannot, after a defeat, be renewed for two years, they very shortly took steps to extend their organization, and to give it a more permanent character on the lines suggested, but rejected, at the original meeting already referred to. This resolution was come to at a meeting on the 14th May, being only a few days after the defeat, and it was then remitted to myself to frame a constitution for future consideration. The constitution was afterwards adjusted, but for various reasons, the formation of the permanent association was not fully completed till 11th March, 1886, when it was duly launched under the title of the "Glasgow Public Libraries Association." At the first election of office bearers, Mr. J. Cleland Burns was elected President, along with ten influential Vice-Presidents. This number was afterwards increased to twenty, and now includes all the seven Members of Parliament for the City, and a representative selection of influential citizens. The object of the Association was stated by the constitution to be "to secure the adoption by the City of Glasgow of the Public Libraries Acts, and if necessary or expedient for this end, to originate or support any amendment of these Acts which may render them

more equitable in their operation." This suggestion of an amendment of the law had its origin in a hardship much felt by many citizens, who, on the occasion of the *plébiscite* of 1885, were prevented from voting by reason of their dwelling house being located in the suburbs, while their business premises, upon which they possibly paid very high rates, were situated within the city boundaries. For the reason already stated the larger proportion of these owners, or tenants of business premises, were naturally opposed to the Acts, and it was therefore from no selfish motive, but as an act of simple justice that the General Council of the Association resolved to take the initiative in a movement for having them enfranchised. At one of the earliest meetings of the council I was instructed to frame a Bill for this end, and also for the purpose of correcting some other transparent anomalies. I was asked at the same time to include in the proposed measure the consolidation of the four existing Libraries Acts then affecting Scotland, and to provide machinery by which the taking of the vote might in future be uniformly and equitably accomplished. The Bill thus framed was in May, 1886, printed by the Association, and was circulated amongst the Scotch Members of Parliament, the Magistrates and Town Council of Glasgow, the Chief Magistrates and Town Clerks of all the Scotch Burghs, and many other persons interested in the reform of the law. The special grievance complained of was remedied by making the constituency the same as the municipal in burghs, thus giving to all householders, male or female, and also to all citizens paying rates upon £10 of rental and residing within seven miles of any part of the city, a voice in the question of the adoption of the Acts. The Bill was introduced into Parliament in the Session of 1887, by Mr. James Caldwell, M.P., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association, and, notwithstanding the pressure of public business in other directions, it was successfully passed through both Houses of Parliament, and received the Royal Assent on 16th September, 1887. It is now the ruling statute for Scotland, and forms the Act, 50 and 51 Victoria, chapter 42.

During the year 1887, the general council of the Association, which included representatives from all the sixteen wards of the city, devoted itself to the increase of the membership, and to the spreading of information among the citizens as to the advantages to be derived from the adoption of the Acts. The executive appointed by the general council met frequently, and were active in carrying out the instructions of the larger body.

Shortly after the second annual general meeting of the Association, held in November, 1887, at which office bearers and executive were elected for the following year, the newly elected executive discussed the question whether, in view of the fact that considerably more than the statutory period of two years had elapsed since last *plébiscite*, it was now expedient to give the citizens another opportunity of reversing their former decisions. It was ultimately resolved unanimously that this course should be recommended to a meeting of the General Council. In coming to this determination the executive were moved by considerations and anticipations, some of which were falsified by the event, or at least proved to be premature. In reviewing the previous *plébiscite*, where the adverse majority was only 7,000 in a constituency of 108,000, it was thought that with better organization, and by a determined effort, this small majority could easily be overcome. Many individual cases were quoted where previous opponents had since become warm friends, and it was anticipated that the ward committees, which on the previous occasion had been hurriedly got together, but were now consolidated, would be enabled to do such work in their various wards as

would ensure a large majority for adoption. The special objection of "inopportunity" from the dullness of trade which, on the previous occasion had so heavily handicapped the promoters, was supposed to be inapplicable, for not only had trade shewn decided symptoms of revival, but the citizens were busily engaged organizing an international exhibition, by means of which their local industries were entered in competition with the world. The recommendation of the executive came up for discussion at a meeting of the General Council, held on 17th January, 1888. There was a large attendance, each of the city wards being well represented. Opinions were taken from each district in detail, the result being that except in the case of one or two members who were doubtful of the propriety of an immediate *plébiscite*, the meeting heartily endorsed the opinion of the executive, and remitted to them to take the necessary steps for securing a *plébiscite* about the month of April following. In the meantime the executive were instructed to take such preparatory steps as they might think expedient. In pursuance of this remit, the executive at once set before themselves the task of transferring each of the 89,000 names on the municipal roll to canvassing cards with the names of the voters arranged in streets, instead of in alphabetical order as in the roll itself. The numbers in each street were further arranged in order, and the even numbers, representing one side of a street, separated from the odd numbers representing the other side. A complete system was introduced for accomplishing this work in an efficient manner, and a considerable amount of female labour was employed for several weeks in carrying it into effect. The roll as printed was divided into wards, and consisted of 1,481 pages of printed matter, each containing about 70 names and addresses of voters. The canvassing cards were calculated to hold 25 names each, and numbered in all 4,298 separate cards. When the work was completed it was found that over the whole city there were 1,110 streets, the closes or entries in some of these being represented by numbers as high as 800 and upwards. Each ward was further arranged into districts, consisting of adjoining streets, and containing, on an average, about 650 voters in each district. In all there were 135 districts, each of which was put under the charge of a district superintendent.

To allow of such a scheme being carried out in its entirety, a large number of volunteer workers was requisite. The machinery was now ready to hand, but the executive had to grapple with the difficulty of getting sufficient motive power to carry it into full operation. To begin with, they had the nucleus of their ward committees, but they also calculated upon receiving very considerable assistance from other sources, and especially from young men of energy and public spirit, who would be likely to understand and appreciate the advantages of Free Libraries. In my capacity of honorary secretary of the Association I issued six different sets of circulars with special enclosures, addressed to members of the Association and to secretaries and other office-bearers of literary societies, temperance societies, Good Templar lodges, Bands of Hope, Sabbath School teachers, and religious societies. In all, about 4,300 such circulars were issued, and, as a result of these and other efforts, upwards of 500 gentlemen volunteered their services. This number, though large, did not quite come up to what had been hoped and expected, but strenuous efforts were at once made to organize and consolidate the forces at command. Districts were allocated, and the duties expected from each volunteer were clearly laid down by means of printed instructions.

In the meantime the statutory requisition had been prepared, and, after being

signed by upwards of 600 ratepayers, was duly presented to Lord Provost Sir James King upon 9th April. Voting papers were thereafter issued by the Lord Provost to householders in terms of the new statutory procedure, and the date of the poll was fixed for 26th April.

The opposition was much of the same character as on the occasion of the previous *plébiscite*, but it was called into more sudden, and perhaps, on that account, into more violent action. The newspapers teemed with letters on both sides of the question. The press editorials were again entirely in favour of adoption with the single exception, as before, of the *Evening Citizen*, which, after a formal declaration of war upon 19th April, returned again and again to the charge. Its first leader was to a large extent an attack upon assumed taxation without representation, the writer being, apparently, unaware of the change of the law brought about since the previous *plébiscite* through the influence of the Libraries Association. When this was pointed out the error was at once admitted, and the attack was changed into one directed against the organization of the Association, which had now begun active operations. As on the occasion of the previous *plébiscite*, the promoters had offered any assistance in their power to householders who desired it, and as the new Act provided that the voting papers should be presented, either personally or by messenger, on a certain day, within specified hours, and at a particular place in each ward, the Association offered the services of its canvassers as messengers to any who could not, or did not care to attend personally at the polling place. In doing so, various safeguards were introduced to prevent abuse, the chief of these being as follows—(1) To secure that the person to whom the paper was entrusted had the sanction of the Association, and could be counted upon faithfully to deliver it at the proper place and time, voters who intended to vote for the adoption of the Act were requested to see that the professed messenger of the Association carried the official badge provided for this purpose; and (2) to avoid any suspicion of tampering with papers that were not affirmative, or of receiving and not duly delivering them, the convassers or messengers of the Association were expressly prohibited from undertaking any charge of such papers. Strange to say, the second of these seemingly reasonable provisions formed the groundwork of all the *Citizen's* subsequent attacks. It was argued, rather illogically, that the supporters of the Act should take charge of the papers of their opponents, as well as of their friends, and should see to their delivery. There must have been some reason, extrinsic to itself, why such an argument should have carried the weight attached to it by many citizens.

As a means of presenting the facts and arguments in favour of free libraries, fairly and fully, before the community, the executive caused a short statement to be prepared, which throughout the whole agitation they lost no opportunity of circulating in large numbers. In order to add weight to this statement it was resolved, shortly before the *plébiscite*, to invite opinions from the mayors and provosts of the various cities and towns which had already adopted the Acts as to their beneficial influence in promoting the higher interests of the communities. The result was most satisfactory, a very large number of weighty and important testimonies being received in favour of the Acts, while in no single instance was their operation spoken of as otherwise than in the highest degree satisfactory and beneficial. Emphatic testimonies of this description were received from the mayors of Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield, Bradford, Blackburn, Wigan, St. Helens, Birkenhead,

Wolverhampton, Rochdale, Devonport, Preston, Blackpool, Northampton, Norwich, Coventry, Chester, Cambridge, Reading, Doncaster, Stoke-upon-Trent, Leicester, Ashton-under-Lyne, Worcester, Cheltenham, Middlesbro', Stockport, Winchester, Chesterfield, Derby, Cardiff, Kingston-upon-Thames, West Bromwich, Tynemouth, Burslem, Shrewsbury, Darwen, Clitheroe, Macclesfield, Bangor, Heywood, Bridgewater, and Wednesbury: from the Lord Provost of Aberdeen: from the provosts of Dundee, Paisley, Inverness, Dumbarton, Galashiels, Airdrie, Dunfermline, Forfar, and Thurso; and from the chairmen of the Local Boards of Tonbridge and Penrith. A selection from these was printed and attached to the statement already mentioned. Nearly 100,000 copies of the joint print were thrown off, and it was among the primary injunctions to the canvassers of the Association that a copy should be deposited in every house. Upwards of 7,500 copies were posted to voters residing in the suburbs.

The poll was duly taken on the day appointed, and the result was announced by the Lord Provost on the forenoon of 27th April as follows:

Against.....	22,987
For	13,550
Majority against	9,437

The result, and especially the extent of the adverse vote, took the executive by surprise. Up to the last moment they had hoped for and expected success as the result of their various efforts, and yet the majority against adoption was now proved to be larger than at the previous *plébiscite*. Well might the *Citizen* initiate its exulting leader with the words—"Fallen is Carthage! The gloom of desolation hangs over the defeated, and the unquiet spectre of free libraries has been laid at rest for a time." We accept the defeat, but we should have the *Citizen* and all opponents know that the cause has not suffered in our eyes, and that a good cause "though baffled oft is ever won."

In looking back upon the whole effort in the light of the result, it may safely be claimed for the Glasgow Public Libraries Association, and its executive, that, whatever their shortcomings, these did not lie in the direction either of want of energy, or want of method and organization. The responsibility for the failure must rest with the people themselves. It may indeed be thrown out for consideration whether a greater amount of public discussion by means of public meetings, might not have better prepared the minds of the community and ripened public opinion, but this is to presuppose an amount of interest in the class of people likely to be affected by such meetings, sufficient to secure their attendance. Experience had shewn many difficulties connected with the organization of meetings on a question such as the present, where the ratepayers' pockets would be affected in ever so slight a degree. In resolving to direct their educational efforts chiefly to the quiet and systematic diffusion of literature, the executive acted on the principle that the intelligence of a voter must first be excited by an accurate view of the facts, before he can be expected to divert himself from other pursuits to spend an evening in connection with a subject to which he has probably given no further consideration than that it is likely to extract a trifle from his pocket. The question of open meetings was however often discussed by the general council and by the executive of the Association, and it is for serious consideration whether, in the future, more attention may not be profitably given to this department of the library campaign in Glasgow. If such meetings should be resolved on as expedient on other

grounds, no fear of opposition at the meetings themselves should act as a deterrent. On the contrary it should be welcomed, for nothing is more likely to advance a really strong cause than a fair discussion where both sides are fully and effectively represented.

But whatever may be thought of this question, or of any similar problem affecting mere method, no citizen of Glasgow who is a true lover of public libraries will allow any number of defeats to interfere with his continuous efforts to obtain for the city the inestimable boon now enjoyed by every other large city in the kingdom.

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

ABERDEEN.—The Town Council and the Free Library Committee are considering the question of a new building for the Free Library.

BELFAST.—The Free Public Library was opened by the Lord Lieutenant on Oct. 13. The Library Association was invited to send a representative to the opening ceremony, and, in consequence of the indisposition of Mr. E. C. Thomas, Mr. W. Lane-Joynt was asked by the Council to attend.

BOLTON.—At a public meeting on October 11, a resolution in favour of the Sunday opening of Public Libraries in the town was carried by a large majority. The Rev. Canon Atkinson presided, and Lord Hobhouse and Mr. J. A. Picton, M.P., were among the speakers.

CARLTON, NOTTS.—The Free Lending Library and Reading Room were formally opened on Thursday, October 18th, in the presence of a large and influential Company. The library has been arranged and catalogued under the direction of Mr. Briscoe, Borough Librarian of Nottingham.

CHESTER.—The Mayor (C. Brown, Esq.) who is at the same time chairman of the Library Committee has presented a new reading room to the town.

CROYDON.—Steps are being taken to procure the adoption of the Libraries Acts in Croydon, and a general committee of over 300 has been formed.

DUNDEE.—In aid of the fund for the extension of the Free Library, a bazaar was opened on October 13, by Mr. C. T. Ritchie, M.P., who spoke strongly in favour of the establishment of free libraries and reading rooms.

EDINBURGH.—The Exhibition Commissioners have appropriated £1,500. of their surplus for the purchase of books on technical subjects for the Public Library.

FALKIRK.—Mr. Robert Dollar, of Marquette, Mich., has given a Free Library to Falkirk, his native town. It was opened on Oct. 16.

FLEETWOOD.—The experiment of Sunday opening is being tried at the Fielden Free Library during the winter.

GALASHIELS.—At a meeting of members of the Mechanics' Institute on Sept. 26, a resolution in favour of the Libraries Acts was carried unanimously.

GRANGEMOUTH.—The memorial stone of the Public Library was laid on Oct. 1 by the Earl of Zetland, who announced that he would give £200 towards the completion of the Library.

HADLEY AND BARNET.—Under the will of Mrs. Julia Hyde, Lady of the Manor of Hadley, Barnet, a sum of £10,000 is bequeathed for the purpose of providing a Free Library for the parishes of Hadley and Barnet. The rectors and churchwardens of these parishes for the time being are appointed trustees of the institution, which is to be erected in one of the two parishes, and the will directs that the necessary steps shall be taken within six months.

INVERNESS.—In consequence of financial difficulties, the Free Library Committee have been obliged to close the Newsroom, and the Library will be open only from 5 to 7 daily. Over 800 volumes are missing from the library, and a debt of £726 has been accumulated in addition to the building loan.

KEITH.—A destructive fire occured on September 30th in the Institute at Keith, and damage was caused to the amount of about £2,000. The museum was completely destroyed, together with the library and its contents, the café, and the reading and committee rooms.

LEEDS.—At the meeting of the Town Council on Oct. 11, a proposal to elect non-members of the Council on the Library and Art Committee was rejected by 28 to 9 votes.

LEWES.—It is hoped that the Fitzroy Library which was presented to the town by the widow of the late Mr. Henry Fitzroy, and has been in the occupation of the Lewes Library Society by arrangement with the Trustees, may be made more useful to the general public.

LIVERPOOL.—It has been decided to open the Free Public Museum on Monday evenings from 7 to 10.

LLANDUDNO.—A poll of the rate-payers has been taken, and the result is in favour of the Acts. The rate will realize about £200 per annum.

LONDON: BRITISH MUSEUM.—The Museum has just acquired a collection of books which has had a curious history. They belonged to Prince Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, and were in the Palais Royal at the time of its destruction. Although they were saved they bear marks of the fire, being singed and otherwise disfigured in various places. They subsequently found their way into the hands of a bookseller of Geneva. It is intended that the books shall not be distributed throughout the library under their respective headings, but that they shall remain together as a memento of the Commune. Those acquired by Prince Jerome before the Empire are stamped as belonging to the library of the citizen Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte, but after the establishment of the Second Empire this stamp is replaced by a large "N," with an eagle's head at the top.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—A meeting in favour of the adoption of the Free Libraries Acts, in accordance with the recommendation of the Vestry, was held on Oct. 23.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The Free Library Commissioners have taken temporary premises at 19, Tysoe Street. A large number of books have been received from all parts of the country, including 1,000 volumes from Mr. R. M. Holborn, who has also given £300 towards the preliminary expenses. The 1d. rate will produce £1,380. Mr. J. D. Brown, of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, has been appointed Librarian and has already entered upon his duties. The Marquis of Northampton has given a site for the building, but meantime the Library is being opened in temporary premises.

LONDON: FULHAM.—The new Reading Room of the Fulham Public Library was opened on Oct. 20.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—Mrs. Edwin Lawrence, formerly of Liverpool, has presented £10,000 to the Public Library.

LONDON: PADDINGTON. — The Free Public Reference Library, which contains 1,235 vols., was opened on Monday, October 15.

LONDON: WANDSWORTH.—The readers have subscribed and placed in the Longstaff Reading Room an enlarged photograph, finished in monochrome, of the generous donor of the room, Dr. G. D. Longstaff, who is now in the 90th year of his age.

Mr. H. J. Hewitt, sub-librarian, has been appointed to a similar post in the Fulham Public Library; he has been succeeded by Mr. W. T. Bradley from the Hereford Free Library.

NORWICH.—The annual meeting of the Norfolk and Norwich Library was held on Oct. 17. It was reported that the contracts for the library buildings were completed, and that the library of the Literary Institution had been removed. The Law Library and the Medical Library are also accommodated on the premises.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Central Free Library still remains closed. The timber beams supporting the lending library roof have been replaced by steel girders, and the roof is about to be removed to make way for an iron and glass one. A lending library is being formed in connection with the reading room at Lenton, Nottingham, and will very shortly be opened.

The reorganization of the library of the Sunday Morning Institute at the University College, and the publication of a new catalogue, have resulted in a large increase in the circulation of books.

OXFORD.—The Rev. W. B. Duggan made an appeal at the anniversary dinner of the Odd Fellows, on Sep. 26, for a Public Library more worthy of the city than the present Free Library.

PLUMSTEAD, KENT.—An unsuccessful poll has been taken. We trust the men of Kent will try again, after an interval which should be spent in a vigorous propaganda.

ROTHERHITHE.—The Library Commissioners have selected a site for the Free Library, and the Vestry, on Oct. 9, voted a sum of £300. for preliminary expenses.

SELKIRK.—The Acts were adopted here on October 9th, and the old county prison is being fitted up as a library and reading room.

SHEFFIELD.—The Town Council have decided to insert a clause in an Omnibus Bill empowering them to levy a library rate of twopence.

WIDNES.—In reply to an application, made by the Free Library Committee to the Local Government Board, for power to spend £20 during the coming winter on Free Public Lectures, the Board stated that they did not think the Local Government Act warranted such expenditure, and that they must reject the application.

The appointment of Mr. E. Maunde Thompson, the Keeper of the MSS., to the post of Principal Librarian of the British Museum should give general satisfaction. To the European reputation which Mr. Thompson enjoys as a palaeographer, there is every reason to expect that he will add that of an able administrator.

A meeting of Librarians of the Mersey District was held, on Sep. 26, at the Free Public Library, Birkenhead.

Mr. Bonner, Librarian of the Ealing Free Library, has invented another indicator, which he claims to be an improvement on the "Cotgreave."

Several Papers in favour of the Sunday Opening of Museums, Libraries and Picture Galleries were read at the workingmen's meeting of the Church Congress, at Manchester, on Oct. 5.

The Duchess of Rutland opened a Village Library at Barlow, on Oct. 5. The Library consists of about 800 volumes, and has been obtained through the exertions of Miss Letitia Wrench.

Mrs. Carnegie was presented with an address, at Glasgow, from the ratepayers of Grangemouth, on Sept. 25, congratulating her and her husband on the good they had done by assisting Free Libraries. Mr. Carnegie in reply said that he and his wife were determined that they would not die rich.

According to the *Athenæum* it has been decided to close the Smyrna Library. This library was formed in 1863, from the library of the Smyrna Institution, the ancient library of the Factory at Aleppo (instituted two centuries ago), and the library of the chaplains of Smyrna. The property is held by the Foreign Office in succession to the Levant Company, but for a long time the books have been neglected, and have become much dilapidated.

The Pope has just presented to the British Museum, the Bodleian and the Cambridge University a series of splendid folios containing facsimiles and notices of some of the most valuable and interesting manuscripts in the Vatican, in commemoration of his sacerdotal jubilee.

A grand Indian Palace Bazaar was held at Dundee, from the 10th to the 13th October, in aid of the building fund of the Victoria Art Galleries of the Albert Institute. Mr. John Maclauchlan acted as Hon. Secretary, and under the name of "Album of Indiapolis," issued a programme which forms a sumptuous and abundantly illustrated *brochure*. The rooms long used for the art collections and annual exhibitions are urgently required for the purposes of the library and museum, and the bazaar was intended to supplement the funds raised in the jubilee year for the erection of new art galleries.

The committee of the Hereford Free Library and Museum are about to appoint a librarian and curator, at a salary of £100. with residence, coals and gas. Applications stating age, which must not exceed forty, are to be sent in on, or before, November 20.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

District of Carlton [Notts.] Catalogue of books in the Carlton Free Lending Library, Main Street, Carlton; and the Rules of the Library and Reading Room. October, 1888. Royal 8vo, pp. 10. Price 1d.

This is a single entry list, well-printed in brevier, half measure, compiled under the direction of Mr. Briscoe of Nottingham.

Borough of Nottingham. Free Public Libraries. Catalogue of Books in the Basford Lending Library, Chelsea Street, New Basford; and the Rules of the Library and Reading Room. Second Edition. Compiled by J. Potter Briscoe, F.R.H.S., Principal Librarian. September, 1888. Royal 8vo, pp. 28. Price 2d.

This is a well-printed and compact single entry catalogue set in brevier, half measure.

Nottingham Men's Sunday Morning Institute (Unsectarian), University College, Library Catalogue. Royal 16mo, pp. 24.

This is a single entry list compiled by Mr. Briscoe.

Bradford. Eighteenth Annual Report of the Public Free Libraries and Art Museum Committee, for the year ended August 12th, 1888. 8vo, pp. 22.

During the year 9,772 persons were enrolled as borrowers. There were 1,622,497 visits made to the central newsroom, seven branches, and the art museum, being 114,214 in excess of those in 1886-7. The issues from the libraries totalled 492,877 vols., against 443,483 during the previous year. 6,443 vols. were obtained by purchase and gift. The total stock is now 58,760 vols.

Cambridge Public Free Library. Thirty-third Annual Report, 1887-1888. pp. 17.

During the year 983 vols. were presented to the library, about 500 being presented by the Philo Union at its dissolution, and a like number by a Yorkshire gentleman, Mr. W. W. Strickland, of Boynton. The library has aided the Cambridge extension scheme by providing text books, as at Nottingham. The reference library comprises 9,634 vols.; the central lending library, 20,517 vols.; and the branch, 4,689 vols.; making a total of 34,840 vols. The year's issues reached 102,929 vols., and 92,263 during the preceding year. Not a single volume was missed from the "open reference library," described by Mr. Foster at the Birmingham meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom. The reading room, which was largely attended during the year, was repainted. There were 1,196 new borrowers enrolled. The penny rate realized £746. The receipts for the year were £933, and the amount expended was £900.

Leeds. Eighteenth Report of the Librarian of the Leeds Free Public Library and Museum, 1887-8. 8vo, pp. 20.

The librarian reports that "it has been necessary to make up this report for half a year only, so that the library year should end simultaneously with the other departments of the Corporation. No proper comparison can, therefore, be made with the work done in previous years. The reference library comprises 39,608 vols., classified under sixteen headings; the central lending library, 40,141 vols., in seven classes; and the twenty-seven branches, 77,810 vols.; in all 157,559 vols. The issues were, from the reference library, 71,642 vols.; from the central lending library, 197,603 vols., and from the branch lending libraries, 178,254 vols. A collection of works on Mental Science, &c., to the number of 1,085 vols. was presented by the widow of the late Councillor Hawkyard, of Leeds. For the better superintendence of the branch libraries the committee has been divided into four sections. The half-year's receipts were £2,839, and the expenditure exceeded the receipts by £298. Eighteen of the branches were supported for six months for a sum under £30 each—the totals including payments for salaries, rents, rates, repairs, books, magazines, newspapers, binding and printing. One branch (Rodley) cost £1 10s. 6d.; three others cost under £5 each; five others under £10; and five more cost under £25.

Newcastle. Seventh Report of the Public Libraries Committee, 1887-88. 8vo, pp. 31.

"There has been a slight falling off in the number of volumes consulted, ... and a lessened attendance in the newsroom, ... but an increase in the issues of books for home reading, ... and an increased percentage of issues of works" in the higher classes of books. Since April 20 the lending libraries have been closed one day each week at 1 p.m. The whole of the library premises have been thoroughly cleaned. The libraries now contain 60,292 vols. The lending library issues were 235,733 vols., being 40,991 vols. in excess of

those of the previous year. There were 11,704 borrowers at the close of the library year. The lending library stock is 30,449 vols. A new catalogue of the juvenile library of 2,160 vols. was issued. The attendance at the newsroom was 591,823 against 627,091 in 1886-7. The daily average issue in the reference library, of 29,843 vols., was 137. "The committee trust to be able shortly to invite the [Library] Association to meet in . . . . Newcastle." The donations of the year numbered 550 vols. The usual comparative table of 13 town libraries is given. Newcastle thus stands eighth in population, stock, turn over, and number of readers' tickets in use, while the percentage of issues in prose fiction is lower than in any of the thirteen sets of libraries. The library rate realized £2,829., the year's receipts were £5,582., the expenditure £3,738., and the balance in hand was £2,120.

Wimbledon. First Annual Report of the Library Committee, 1887-8. 8vo, pp. 30.

This is a history of the free library movement in Wimbledon from 1880. Mr. J. Van Sommer, jun., was its originator. At a public meeting the Act was adopted by a small majority. A poll was demanded, but was not taken until May, 1882—the result being a refusal to establish a library. Upon a requisition, a ratepayers' meeting was called in June, 1883, when the Act was adopted by a majority of 81. A site was obtained for £1,250, and a building erected at a cost exceeding £2,165. A committee was appointed in 1886, and Mr. Rabbitt was appointed librarian. An appeal for funds, made in 1886, realized £217, and £86. was voted from the Jubilee Commemoration Fund, which sum was expended in the purchase of works of reference. The cost of 3,328 vols. was £583. The reading room was opened by Sir John Lubbock, March 9, 1887. The daily average attendance there has been 411. The lending library was opened December 1, 1887. The library now contains 6,095 vols. (of which number 2,767 were presented), 4,748 being in the lending library, and 1,347 in the reference library. The daily average issues were 289 vols.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Catalogue of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library, compiled under the direction of the Librarian. Glasgow, 1888. 8vo, pp. xxv, 602, half bound.

Mr. Mason must be congratulated on producing an extremely handsome and convenient catalogue of an important collection of books. It is arranged on the dictionary plan, and is clearly printed in double columns so as to secure the utmost economy of space. The scale adopted in indicating sizes is Mr. Madeley's. Mr. Mason pays a graceful compliment to his assistants, and the catalogue is dedicated by the Directors to Sir Michael Connal. The account of the Library is abridged from Mr. Mason's standard work on the book collections of Glasgow.

Schema des Real-Katalogs der Königlichen Universitäts-Bibliothek zu Halle a. S. Leipzig: Otto Harrassowitz, 1888. 8vo, pp. 350.

This important publication is number three of the extra series of the *Centralblatt des Bibliothekswesen.* The German university libraries, as befits institutions which minister to the studies of so many learned men, pride themselves on their scientifically constructed *real* or subject catalogues. They can very rarely, however, afford to print them, and we owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. O. Hartwig, the librarian of the Halle University library, who has presented the public with this excellently printed view of the headings of the subject catalogue made since his appointment to the library in 1876.

The long promised fourth volume of Halkett and Laing's "Dictionary of the Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain," has at length appeared. It contains the Index for which even a careful reader would be led to hold Miss Laing, who has edited the work and signs the "Editor's" note to the present volume, to be responsible. This however, we understand, would be to do injustice to Miss Laing, who appears to have been badly treated by the publisher of the book—a matter to which we propose to return in a review of the whole work.

The York Free Library Committee have reprinted as a pamphlet from the *Whitehaven News* the "Speeches of His Grace the Archbishop of York on the Opening of the Whitehaven Free Library." (York: 1888, 8vo, pp. 19.)

We are glad to hear that we may soon expect to see a second edition of the Rev. W. D. Macray's "Annals of the Bodleian Library."

The new number of Mr. Petherick's *Torch* contains a bibliography of the writings

of the late Mr. R. A. Proctor, with a portrait. This number contains a further instalment of the bibliography of Australasia.

Dr. R. Garnett contributes to the October number of the new *Universal Review* a Paper on "The Past, Present and Future of the British Museum Catalogue."

The number of the *Rivista delle Biblioteche* for May-June-July contains a long article by Prof. C. Castellani on "The present State of the Question as to the Invention of Printing," and several contributions to Italian bibliography.

A series of papers has been begun in the *Norwich Mercury*, entitled "Hours in a Free Library," which it is proposed to reprint in a limited edition with notes and references.

It is proposed to include in the final volume of the '*Challenger* Report' a complete bibliography, and Mr. Murray asks that references to works in which the *Challenger* discoveries are discussed may be sent to him at the *Challenger* office, 32, Queen Street, Edinburgh.

Our attention has been called to the fact that the article in *Chambers's Journal* for December, 1887, on "The B. M. Newspaper Room," consists mainly of an unacknowledged reprint of an article in the first number of the *Library Chronicle*.

Mr. E. C. Thomas's edition of the *Philobiblon* of Richard de Bury is now through the press, and will be ready for delivery to subscribers in a few days. The result of the Editor's work upon the various printed editions and the thirty-five MSS. which he registers, has been the entire reconstruction of the hitherto accepted text.

The version of Inglis will always retain an interest for book-lovers, not merely as the first attempt at an English version of the book, but also because of Mr. Inglis's reputation as a collector. As a translation, however, it is unscholarly and inadequate. This is, indeed, admitted by Inglis himself, and he did, in fact, undertake to revise it, though his death prevented the completion of the task. It is singular, therefore, to find that Professor Henry Morley has reprinted the version of Inglis in the curious mingle-mangle which he calls 'A Miscellany,' without any attempt to revise or correct it, or even to make use of the materials published by Cocheris for the improvement of the text, and without the slightest warning to the reader that it cannot be regarded as a fair representation of the Bishop's book.

Correspondence.

Robert Burns as Founder of a Book Club.

Sir,—Among the many attractions which the Local Committee of the Library Association so generously offered to its members while recently visiting Glasgow, perhaps the excursion to Ayr and Alloway was the most deeply interesting to most of us. In these places we seemed to comprehend more clearly the life, and the charming poetry, of Robert Burns. The humble white-washed cottage in which the poet was born; the old bridge, and the ruins of Alloway Kirk—the scenery of "Tam o'Shanter;" the pastoral beauty of the "banks and braes o' bonnie Doon;" and the old and new "Brigs of Ayr," gave freshness and vitality to subjects long familiar, but not before properly realized. But there was one incident in the life of Robert Burns which we, as librarians, ought perhaps at that time to have remembered, and to which I think no allusion was made at the meeting. That was, his earnest endeavour to promote a love of reading among his associates. In this direction he may justly be considered as a pioneer of village book-clubs. About 1789-90 (when "Tam o' Shanter," "To Mary in Heaven," and "Auld Lang Syne" were composed), when he was harassed by his duties in the excise, and the failure of his farm at Ellisland, he yet found time to carry out this reading project. "He engaged in the formation of a society for purchasing and circulating books among the farmers of the neighbourhood, of which he undertook the management" (See Currie's "Life of Robert Burns," Chambers's edition, 1838, page 47).—I am, yours truly,

Library, Jermyn Street. T. W. Newton.

A Library Bureau.

Dear Sir,—For a long time Members of the L.A.U.K. have wished that they had some place to which all might look as a centre, where the Association's business might be carried on, and where all might come, sure of finding some one able and ready to give and take Library News.

Indeed there is ground for believing, that the chief hindrance to the Association's rightful growth, is the want of touch between its members. The yearly Meeting does much in the way of bringing them together, but cannot make up for the want of all intercourse for twelve months.

All this has been clearly seen, and the founders of the Association must have had some such plan, as is now proposed, in view when they enacted that the Council should have authority to engage rooms "for the formation of a museum of library appliances, and ultimately of a bibliographical library" ("Constitution," Art. 20), but the want of pelf—which, as always, vexes the bookish mind—has stopped the way.

Such a scheme were better left alone if not carried out thoroughly, and the Association, as it now stands, not being able to undertake it, some Members, earnest for the Association's welfare, have joined together for that purpose.

They offer to provide :—

(1) An office for the Association, where its publications will be kept for sale or inspection; a Clerk who will assist the Secretaries and Treasurer, and a Room for Council and Monthly Meetings.

(2) An office for the "Library Chronicle."

(3) A Library Bureau, the chief features of which will be—a permanent Exhibition of models and patterns of all kinds of library fittings and materials; specimens of library bindings, of best leathers and other covering stuffs.

Lists of duplicate, surplus, and odd volumes from different libraries: the clerk of the Bureau to carry out exchanges mutually profitable to those concerned.

Libraries' Lists of "Books Wanted" which booksellers will be invited to examine; and accommodation will be offered for the inspection of books on approval.

Arrangements will be made with the publishers by which copies of new books and editions will be kept on view. In addition to this, there will be a well selected bibliographical library, and a complete collection of publishers' and booksellers' catalogues.

[This should prove a great boon to book-buying deputations and to librarians, who will be able, on the spot, to make up their purchasing lists after seeing the books themselves and with every convenience for reference at hand. By arrangement, parcels of books on sight will be sent down to the country.]

As a help to the committees and promoters of new libraries, approved plans and drawings of libraries will be kept, and copies supplied. Carefully compiled statistics of everything relating to the cost and management of libraries will be prepared and kept up to date.

(4) Finally, there will be writing accommodation, and a Poste Restante, and *subscribers* can arrange to have their letters forwarded.

The promoters feel that the Bureau will be a most valuable aid to every one engaged in Library work, or in promoting new Libraries, and therefore confidently appeal for encouragement and support. The use of the Bureau *rooms* will be free to all members of the Association; but for the *services* of the Bureau (Exchanges, Commissions, Supplying of Wants, Forwarding of Letters, &c.), a yearly subscription will be required. Suggestions and offers of help are invited.

Very truly yours, J. Y. W. MacAlister,
Hon. Sec. to the Promoters.

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The Library Chronicle.

SKETCH OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY ESTABLISHMENT SUITABLE FOR THE CITY OF GLASGOW.[1]

By F. T. Barrett, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.

THE City of Glasgow possesses many and eminent claims to respect for the efforts made and the results accomplished by her citizens, in most of the objects which collectively go to make up municipal good government. In some of these efforts it may be said that the city, while working in the interests of her own people, has so secured those interests as to render a valuable service to other great town communities. By the wise daring of the scheme for bringing to the city an abundant supply of pure water from a distant highland loch, Glasgow conferred a lasting obligation on other great cities in similar circumstances, whose way is made plainer by the successful issue of her enterprise. The operations of the Glasgow Improvement Trust are understood to have furnished experience and information of the greatest value in guiding subsequent legislation, both general and local, for improving the conditions of crowded and unwholesome areas in great towns. The establishments in charge of the public health, and particularly the provisions for dealing with infectious diseases, are among the most carefully thought out, the most liberally equipped, and the most ably conducted in the kingdom. The police service is one of admittedly distinguished efficiency. The cause of public instruction is promoted by the School Board and other educational corporations with a thoroughness and success nowhere surpassed.

But it is not given to communities, any more than to individuals, to be perfect at all points; and it has come to pass that, in that department of public work and service in which we as an Association are especially interested, the question of public libraries has not received from the public, or from the leaders of opinion and action, that effective recognition which in other directions has led to results so beneficial.

You have heard from Mr. Brown the history of the efforts which have been made to secure the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in Glasgow, and the failure of those efforts. I should think it unbecoming to offer any remark as to the causes of that want of success; but I may express my conviction that the failure is not final.

[1] Read at the Glasgow Meeting of the Library Association, September, 1888.

I do not think that many, even of those who have hitherto thought it their duty to oppose the adoption of the Acts, would be content to believe that in the whole English-speaking world Glasgow will remain distinguished as the only great city in which the public library is not looked upon as coming within the proper sphere of public care and public charge. I believe further, that when the matter is finally taken up, it will be with a characteristic energy and thoroughness which will go far to make amends for its long postponement.

In this conviction, I have ventured to think that the visit to Glasgow of the Library Association provides a suitable opportunity for submitting a brief and slight general sketch of such a public library establishment as would be suitable to the requirements, and approximately sufficient for the needs of this large and varied population.

I am quite conscious that in such a sketch I can advance nothing which is not already familiar to most of those present, and in that respect I feel that an apology is due to the Association; but I trust that the local circumstances will be held to be a sufficient warrant for thus occupying your time.

In approaching the consideration of an establishment of public libraries suitable for an extensive, populous, and important city, such as Glasgow, two aspects of the question,—one having regard to the kind of work to be done, or, perhaps, rather to the character of the privileges to be provided, and the other relating to the question of locality, or convenient nearness of the libraries to the homes of the people,—these two considerations must be kept in view together, with the object of placing the largest possible amount of the benefit of public libraries in positions the most convenient for the use of the inhabitants generally.

The work to be accomplished by a public library, at once well equipped and liberally and energetically administered, falls chiefly into four classes or kinds.

First, the providing and making accessible books for consultation or perusal within the library premises; this is by general usage called the reference department, the word reference not meaning, as has been supposed, that the books are solely what are called "works of reference," but only that they are to be referred to in the Library. In this department the chief characteristic should be that of comprehensiveness and generality. All schools of thought; all varieties of opinion in politics, philosophy, religion; all phases of experience; should be fully represented. In the reference library nothing is too great, and very few things are too small. It receives and preserves with equal propriety and equal care the greatest, rarest, costliest books, and the ephemeral tract, which is in everybody's hands to-day, but which the student or historian will hereafter search for and esteem an invaluable aid in his labours. I do not go the length of saying that a reference library should preserve all printed matter which may be offered to it, but a wise librarian will not reject even the most apparently valueless pamphlet or leaflet without anxious care. The reference library is obviously the proper repository of all special collections of books and pamphlets on particular subjects, whether relating to localities, or to political, social, or religious movements, to stated periods of history, or to individual branches of science or art or industry, or of whatever other kind. Here too will generally be preserved the files of newspapers and periodicals. The reference library should in brief be all things to all men, and should aim at furnishing information on all subjects on which inquiry may be made. How numerous and various these subjects are in actual experience will be well

shown in an interesting paper which my colleague Mr. Ingram will contribute to the proceedings of the present meeting.

The second principal department of the work of a public library consists in the providing and issuing books for reading at home by all who may qualify under the regulations as borrowers. The considerations which govern the selection of books for this department differ materially from those applicable to the reference library. It would obviously be highly improper to expose to the risks of general circulation books of a costly character, or which, if lost or injured, it would be difficult to replace. It would be inconvenient also, and of doubtful wisdom, to encumber the lending library with much of the ephemeral matter which is rightly preserved in the reference library. An endeavour should of course be made to provide for home reading the standard works in all branches of literature, in editions which can be replaced when worn out. On the somewhat vexed question of the reading of fiction in public libraries, a moderate course is probably the wisest. I venture to think a profuse and indiscriminate admission of novels an error of judgment. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that much of the best of modern literature exists in the form of the novel, and it would be unreasonable and indefensible to refuse to provide a fairly liberal supply of such works in this class as time and the public judgment have marked with approval. Naturally the best modern works in history, in biography, in criticism, in science and art, and in political and social economy should be added to the lending libraries as soon as they can be had at a moderate cost.

The third main division in the present classification of library work is the news-room, in which are exhibited to all who come the principal newspapers and other issues of the periodical press. It is probable that this is, when fully developed, the most popular and profitable of all the parts of a library service; that is, that in proportion to its cost it gives more advantage to a larger number of persons than either of the other departments. The serials placed at the service of the public will of course include representative journals of all kinds, whether issued daily or at longer periods, and representing interests of whatever kind, literary, artistic, scientific, technical, commercial, political, religious, or general.

The fourth and last special feature of library work which I propose to mention is one which has received much more attention in the United States than with us, and which, though I entertain a strong conviction of its future importance and usefulness, I am not now prepared to do more than indicate. It consists in the association of the public libraries with the public schools in the work of public instruction, and by means of special classes in the use of books, studies in bibliography, suitable courses of reading, etc., making the libraries directly contributory to the promotion of education.

For the purpose of applying to Glasgow this sketch of the constituent parts of a system of public libraries, I shall take the freedom of assuming that the present artificial boundaries of the city will have ceased to exist, and that this great community, now divided, will have become one in name, in interest, and in government. The population may be taken as rapidly approaching 800,000, occupying an area of some 14,000 acres, with an annual rateable value somewhat exceeding £4,000,000.

For the service of such a community as this, the public library establishment should comprise a central and not less than ten branch libraries, and each of these eleven libraries should include in a greater or less degree all the four elements of usefulness which have been described. As to the appropriate extent of the central collection, it

is not necessary to offer any very precise indication, beyond saying that it cannot be too large. An eminent authority has laid it down, that the public library of any city or town ought to contain as many volumes as there are inhabitants. It will require the effort of many years, probably of some generations, and the continuous help of many friends, before that standard can be attained in Glasgow; but a quarter of a million of volumes might be reasonably looked to as possible perhaps even so soon as the end of the present century; and a quarter of a million volumes, judiciously selected and adequately catalogued, would constitute a central library not unworthy of the city.

Towards such a library, there is already an extensive, important and valuable commencement in the three public libraries now existing in the city, which contain together more than 120,000 volumes.

I do not propose to enter on any discussion of the precise manner in which these now-existing library trusts would be associated or combined with a general scheme of public libraries; but it cannot be doubted that when the time comes means will be found by which they will be brought into harmonious and beneficial co-operation, while still retaining their several distinctive names, and the particular characteristics which they have developed.

The directors of Stirling's Library have printed for your information an interesting account of that institution, compiled by Mr. Mason, from which you will learn that now, on the eve of the completion of its century, it is more efficient, more vigorous, and more useful than at any previous period of its history. The reference library established under the bequest of George Baillie, known as Baillie's Institution, has been comparatively recently opened, and promises to become a valuable and important library for consultation and research.

The Mitchell Library, opened towards the end of 1877, has had an unusually rapid development, and may now be reckoned among the more considerable of provincial libraries, containing as it does about 80,000 volumes, with an annual average of reading amounting to some 400,000 volumes. The history of the library is so well known as to render it unnecessary to engage your attention with it at any length. It has been one of great and continuous progress. Favourable circumstances led to the acquisition of a number of large and important collections, by bequest, by gift, and by purchase. In some branches of literature, especially in subjects relating particularly to Scotland and to Scottish history, the collections in the library have become so considerable that any calamity befalling them would be a grave public misfortune; and this leads to the remark that the present position of the Library as regards premises is to the last degree unfortunate. The Library is not reasonably safe. The insufficiency of space entails the most serious inconveniences in its working; while the accommodation for the public has in years past been so overtaxed as to render proper ventilation impossible, and to bring upon it its present unhappy notoriety as one of the least satisfactory of public buildings in respect of sanitary considerations.

These three libraries taken together would, if so applied, form a most advantageous starting point for the gradual formation of a really worthy central collection.

The ten branch libraries suggested would be so distributed throughout the city that each citizen would have one near his home, and placed at points easy of access to the population they were intended to serve. At each there would be the collection of books for home reading, a small but carefully chosen reference collection, and a well

supplied news-room. In view of the large area of the extended city, it would be desirable that at say four of the branch libraries the reference collection of books and the news-room should receive a fuller development than at the others. These would become district centres, and would provide for residents in the several districts such a store of books, as would in many cases save them the trouble of a journey to the central library.

In selecting the books for the branch libraries, and the periodical publications for the branch news-rooms, it would be well to aim at providing as large a variety as possible. By the plan of representing the same subject at the various libraries by different works, it would be found to be possible to place at the disposal of the readers, in the course of a few years, almost the whole of the best modern authorities on that subject. In the news-rooms, by the use of the same plan, it would be possible to show a very large selection of British periodical literature of all kinds, including the whole of the more important Scottish journals, and a good representation of American and continental serials.

It is no part of the purpose of this paper to enter into the details of arrangement and administration of public libraries, but it may be permissible to say a word on the spirit by which their management should be animated. That spirit should, I venture to submit, be one of the largest liberality. The necessary regulations should be so framed as to give to the public the fullest privileges, consistent with the due safe-guarding of the property of the library, and with the ensuring of equal rights to all who desire to participate in its advantages. With this view, it would be wise to entitle every borrower to draw books from any or from all of the libraries, though not from two at the same time. It would be for consideration if a daily service of transfer of books from and to the Central Library and each of the branches might not be instituted, so as to give to the borrowers, in whatever district they reside, the means of getting books for home use from all the libraries, without the necessity of travelling to distant parts of the city. This would, of course, necessitate that at each library the catalogues of all the others should be open for consultation.

I conclude this very imperfect sketch with a brief reference to the financial side of the question. It is not possible on this occasion to enter into details, but it may be stated that such a system of public libraries as has been described may be established in buildings of a suitable kind—spacious, secure, well-lighted, and wholesome, if not architecturally ambitious, and may be efficiently conducted, at a cost not exceeding that which has been indicated by the legislature as appropriate for such a purpose—namely, an annual sum equal to one penny in the pound of rental, added to the free revenue derivable from the present library trusts.

In the present company it would be worse than superfluous to speak of the importance and value of public libraries in large towns. I will only repeat the conviction that Glasgow, in which the evidences of intelligence, and wealth, and enterprise meet the eye at every step, will ere long place herself in this matter in line with the other great cities of the kingdom, and that she will one day become as eminent for her libraries as she now is in most other departments of municipal activity which make for the public good.

BOOK MUSIC IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.[1]

By J. Potter Briscoe, Librarian, Free Public Library, Nottingham.

Great Britain is undeniably music-loving, and the love of music should be fostered to the highest degree because of its elevating tendency. This taste is not by any means confined to persons moving in the highest intellectual circles, but permeates the middle and labouring classes to a very large extent. The agricultural labourer, the miner, and the artizan are alike lovers of music, both instrumental and vocal. Glee parties are formed among the agricultural and industrial population, and thousands of toilers are possessed of musical instruments of one kind or another. Their supply of music is, however, very limited in quantity, and often inferior in quality, owing to the paucity of funds at their disposal; hence the desirability of working upon co-operative principles. This can best be done in great centres of industry by the co-operative libraries—including those supported by the rates under the provisions of the Libraries Acts and those of Mechanics' Institutions.

The main object of committees and librarians should be to make the libraries under their direction of the greatest possible benefit to the membership, whether those libraries be rate-supported or subscribed to. Every taste, within the scope of such institutions, should be catered for, providing it is not a vitiated one. The provision of printed music has been too often overlooked by the management of Free Public Libraries, Mechanics' Institutions and Subscription Libraries. It is to be hoped, however, that when the matter is brought to their notice, there will be a liberal supply provided at no distant date. The advantages offered will be quickly appreciated, and satisfaction will be expressed with the outlay which may be made in the direction of providing a good supply of printed music for circulation among the members of the libraries indicated.

This has got beyond the range of experiment. Birmingham, Manchester, Nottingham, Sheffield, and Free Public Libraries in other places have such supplies, and the librarians and committees are perfectly satisfied with the demand for printed music: indeed its introduction has met with a greater measure of success than was anticipated. The Birmingham Central Free Library collection numbers 263 vols., and last year's circulation reached 3,104 vols. In the five Birmingham lending libraries, there are now 755 vols. of music, and last year's issues were 5,928 vols.

The Nottingham collection comprises 250 vols., of which more than one-half are constantly in the hands of borrowers. These collections of books of music consist of anthems, ballads, fugues, glees, masses, operas, songs and symphonies, and are not of an expensive character. The Nottingham collection, which was carefully formed, was chiefly made up of Boosey's and Novello's octavo editions, and some of the publications of Augener, Chappell, Cramer, and Metzler. These books of music were obtained in the cheapest form. Before circulation, and after careful consideration, they were entrusted to Mr. Cedric Chivers of Bath, for him to bind in his "Duro-Flexile" binding, which is peculiarly suitable for music, and being by him half bound in hog-skin, are made as lasting as binding can make them. The Nottingham collection of 250 vols. cost, including substantial binding, about £56, or an average of 4s. 6d. per volume. This collection may be taken as a basis for other collections. In order to

[1] Read at a Monthly Meeting of the Library Association.

facilitate the formation of such, the names of publishers are indicated in the list of music in the second supplementary catalogue of the Nottingham Free Public Central Lending Library.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

Our American cousins have held their annual meeting this year amidst the romantic scenery of the Catskills, and, as usual, it has been an entire success. A striking departure has this year been attempted, and the result is reported as "eminently satisfactory." *Only two papers were read*—and those in the enforced absence of the authors,—but the discussions upon these and upon other subjects, informally suggested by the President and members, produced much valuable information, and in one case the discovery led to the most important action taken. It was found that a list of portraits other than those separately published, that is, of portraits contained in collections, in biographies, in art periodicals, and the like places where they might be overlooked, had made considerable progress in a certain large library, and that others had done more or less work in the same direction. It was agreed that such isolated work, leading necessarily to considerable duplication, was unwise, and that such a list ought to be prepared in coöperation, as was Poole's 'Index to Periodical Literature,' and with a view to publication when finished. A committee was appointed to report at the next Convention (to be held at St. Louis next spring) what works of this sort are going on. The preparation of such a general list of portraits was suggested some years ago by Mr. R. R. Bowker, of the *Publishers' Weekly*, to the English Index Society, and the index was put upon their list; but that Society has frittered away its energy on the production of little indexes of extremely limited value; and nothing has ever been done, so far as we know, to organize that coöperation without which a scheme of this magnitude could not be carried out. It is to be hoped that the coming report will not confine itself to enumerating all the bibliographical work that can be discovered to be going on in this country, though that of itself would be of great value, but will outline a method by which the iconographical index can take its place as the third of those useful labour-savers, of which Poole's 'Index' is the first, and Fletcher's 'Essay Index' is to be the second.

One session was devoted to architecture. The plans of the new rooms destined for the State Library in the State House at Albany, prepared by a librarian, were approved; the plans of the Howard Library just finishing at New Orleans, one of Richardson's latest drawings, were riddled with objections. All of Richardson's designs for libraries are, from the library point of view, failures. We do not know whether that famous architect ever gave any thought to the object for which his buildings of this sort are intended: there is little indication that he did in any of them. He appears to have been satisfied if he drew a beautiful design, and to have left it to some draughtsman to fit in the books and the service. When shall we find an artist who will plan for use first and beauty next: who will see where his book-shelves and his reading-halls and his work-rooms ought to go for the highest efficiency, and then will mould his library building around them? Looking at such plans as this of the Howard Library (where, for instance, an attendant must go 320 feet to get a book within 10 feet of the delivery desk), and scores of others like it, not excepting even the magnificent structure just begun for the Boston Public Library, one may say, as did the President of the American Association, "The architect is the natural enemy of the librarian."

HALKETT AND LAING'S DICTIONARY OF ANONYMOUS AND PSEUDONYMOUS LITERATURE.[1]

The practice of anonymity and pseudonymity in writing might furnish the matter for a curious literary essay, if this were the time or place for it. So many books have been published by people anxious more or less effectually to conceal their identity, that the discussion of them has become the subject of a distinct department of bibliography. The great folios of the industrious Vincentius Placcius the "Theatrum Anonymorum et Pseudonymorum," edited by Vischer at Hamburg in 1708, had been preceded by a number of essays and academical dissertations, and by the "De Scriptis et Scriptoribus Anonymis atque Pseudonymis Syntagma" of Placcius himself (Hamburgi, 1674). The *Theatrum* was not finished at the author's death, and an editor undertook the charge of issuing the volumes. In 1740 was published, also at Hamburg, in folio, the "Bibliotheca Anonymorum et Pseudonymorum" of John Christopher Mylius, a work designed to supplement and continue that of Placcius, and embracing over *four thousand* writers.

Coming to more modern literature, J. S. Ersch treated of anonymous books in German literature in a separate section of the voluminous "Gelehrtes Teutschland" of Hamberger and Meusel. In 1806-1808 came the great "Dictionnaire des ouvrages anonymes et pseudonymes," which has made the name of Barbier famous. The last volume of the better known second edition, published in 1822-1827, was edited by the author's son after his father's death. All the articles in the first edition are not incorporated in the second, and accordingly it is still sometimes necessary to refer to the earlier work. The pseudonymous literature of Italy was treated by Vincenzio Lancetti in his "Pseudonimia," published at Milan in 1836, which was, however, soon superseded by the "Dizionario di Opere anonime e pseudonime di scrittori Italiani." Meantime, in France, in 1847-1853, the "Martyr of Bibliography," J. M. Quérard, had published in the "Les Supercheries littéraires" that magnificent treasury of bibliographical learning, which gives his name a place beside that of Barbier. To these names must be added that of Emil Weller, who in "Die maskirte Literatur der älteren und neueren Sprachen," (Leipzig, 1856-58,) has attempted to cover the whole field of ancient and modern literature.

This brief survey of the more important contributions to the literature of anonymous and pseudonymous writings, naturally leads us to the question of what has been done for the anonymous and pseudonymous literature of our own language, and the answer must be, until the preparation of the work now before us practically nothing. The great need of such a work had long been felt by librarians and men of letters, and in the course of a discussion on the subject in the pages of *Notes and Queries* in 1856, the then Keeper of the Advocates' Library at Edinburgh, wrote: "I have myself felt the want of it greatly, and for my own purposes have long been in the habit of noting down every piece of information that came in my way. During the last three or four years I have been engaged in preparing a new catalogue of the Advocates' Library, and in the course of the enquiries which it has been my duty to make I have largely increased the stock of materials which I had previously collected. In these circumstances should no one better qualified than myself undertake the task, I feel strongly disposed to continue the researches in which I have been engaged and to arrange the

[1] Edinburgh: Paterson, 1882-88. In 4 vols. 8vo.

results with a view to publication." Mr. Halkett accordingly proceeded with his task until his death in 1871, when the Rev. John Laing, Librarian of the New College, Edinburgh, undertook to continue it. Mr. Laing died in 1880, and the work was then taken up and has now been brought to completion by his daughter, Miss Catherine Laing, who is in effect the editor of the work, though with a graceful, but, we think, excessive modesty, she has omitted her name from the title-page. The care and patience with which the enormous labour of arranging and revising the materials, and seeing the work through the press must have required, may be inferred from the mere extent of the Dictionary, which covers 2,854 columns, each containing on an average about eight entries, or altogether nearly 23,000 separate works. In her Editor's note to the fourth volume Miss Laing refers to the fact that Mr. H. B. Wheatley handed over to Mr. Halkett a great mass of materials for a work of the kind which he had himself collected, and expresses her sense of special obligation to Mr. J. T. Clark, Mr. T. G. Law, Mr. H. R. Tedder, Dr. R. Garnett, and Mr. F. Madan.

The Dictionary is followed by two Indexes—one of "Authors' Pseudonyms" (coll. v—cxx) and the other of "Authors" (coll. cxxi—ccccxii). These indexes are not the work of Miss Laing, who has complained, and very justly complained, of the publisher for having, without her knowledge or consent, omitted the following sentence from the preface, as written by her for the press: "I have to add that my labours closed in 1885 with letter Z, the indices, &c., being the work of another hand." Nothing, of course, could be more improper or unbecoming on the part of a publisher, and this offence against the guild of authors will, no doubt, be duly pilloried, when, as Halkett and Laing have followed Barbier, some one comes to follow Quérard in writing an English "Supercheries littéraires."

It was the more unjust thus to make Miss Laing appear responsible for the indexes, as they are by no means well done, and are indeed entirely unworthy of the work to which they are attached. They swarm with errors, of which we can only find room for a few specimens, which present themselves upon a cursory examination.

Thus we find "Armig, S.P.," treated as a pseudonym, though it is obviously merely a contraction for *armiger*. "An American" should be Joseph Galloway, and not — Woodmass. We have an extraordinary piece of bungling in "Phil-J. R., en-alethius, I. D." for "I. D. Phil-iren-alethius." Frederick Schleirmacher (*sic*) is actually entered as a pseudonym of Connop Thirlwall, who published an anonymous translation of a well-known book by Schleiermacher. "Jewel, John" again is treated as a pseudonym of Degory Whear, who published an anonymous translation of one of Bishop Jewel's Latin works. "Katherine Evering" is entered as a pseudonym, being, in fact, the title of a book, and the same kind of blunder is repeated with "Sister Anne." A whole series of mistakes is made under the entry "Bennett, Rev. W. J. E." Mrs. Sydney (which should be Sidney) Lear, S. H. Lear and Henrietta Louisa Farrer are all one person, but this is not shown by any cross-reference. We have a delicious entry under "Ross, née (!) J. Dix," the fact being that J. Dix, a man, afterwards added Ross to his name. "St. Palaye" is entered as an anonymous author, though it is the translation, and not the original of his 'Memoirs of Ancient Chivalry,' which is anonymous. We have no space to enumerate the mis-prints we have noticed, and the index-maker has not even taken advantage of the corrections of the errata in the body of the work furnished by Miss Laing's table of corrigenda. The indexes, in short, furnish but sorry outbuildings to an imposing structure, for which many generations of

students and librarians will feel the warmest gratitude to Mr. Halkett and Mr. Laing, and not least to the accomplished and industrious editor of the materials accumulated by so much patient labour and minute research. E. C. T.

SOME RECENT BOOKS.[1]

The handsome and imposing appearance of the two portly octavos, with their array of illustrations and elaborate arithmetical tables, in which Mr. Ignatius Donnelly has expounded, or partly expounded, the "Great Cryptogram," are well calculated to lend an aspect of solidity to his extraordinary theory. As, however, Mr. Donnelly has not chosen to entrust us with all the keys necessary to understand the cipher, we can hardly appreciate the justice of his complaint that none of his critics have tried to understand him or his cipher. So far as we have been able to follow it, it seems to rest upon a method by which, in Lucretian phrase, 'anything may become anything.' Indeed, the cipher is so complicated that Mr. Donnelly has to admit that he himself has not yet entirely mastered it. As he pathetically observes (vol. ii., p. 540): "Some more mathematical head than mine may be able to do it." We must confess that we are left with Mr. Donnelly, desiderating "a more mathematical head." The first volume is devoted to a literary and circumstantial argument to show that Shakespeare did not and could not have written the plays, and that Francis Bacon was their real author. Then in the second volume follows the "demonstration," and the work concludes with an account of Delia Bacon and others, who have preceded Mr. Donnelly in attributing the plays to Bacon. The book, as we have observed, is very handsomely produced, and will, no doubt, secure a place in Shakespearian libraries.

Mr. Henry Sweet's "History of English Sounds" is a reissue of a work which originally appeared in the Transactions of the Philological Society for 1873-4. He claims for it that it is a great advance upon the earlier edition, and, at least, it may be said to be indispensable to the student of the modern science of phonetics, for which Bell, Ellis, Paul and Sievers, and now Mr. Sweet himself, have done so much.

The second series of "Essays in Criticism" (why will so many people persist in speaking of Essays *on* Criticism), only published since his lamented death, were collected for publication by Mr. Matthew Arnold himself. According to Lord Coleridge, who writes a brief "Prefatory Note" to the volume, the volume "contains some of his

[1] The Great Cryptogram: Francis Bacon's Cipher in the so-called Shakespeare Plays. By Ignatius Donnelly. London: Sampson Low, 1888. 2 vols., la. 8vo, pp. ix. 998.

A History of English Sounds from the earliest periods. By Henry Sweet. Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1888. 8vo, pp. xv. 409. Price 18s.

Essays in Criticism, Second Series. By Matthew Arnold. London: Macmillan, 1888. 8vo, pp. ix. 331. Price 9s.

Literary Essays. By Richard Holt Hutton. Third Edition, revised and enlarged, London: Macmillan, 1888. 8vo, pp. vi. 490. Price 6s.

Theological Essays. Third edition, revised. Same author and publishers. 8vo, pp. xlvi. 424. Price 6s.

France as it is. By André Lebon and Paul Pelet. London: Cassell & Co., 1888. 8vo, pp. vii, 348. Price 7s. 6d.

Fragments of the Greek Comic Poets. With renderings in English Verse. By F. A. Paley, LL.D. London: Swan Sonnenschein, 1889. 8vo, pp. viii. 145. Price 4s. 6d.

Gilds: their origin, constitution, objects, and later history. By the late Cornelius Walford. New and enlarged edition. London: Redway, 1888. 8vo, pp. xi. 272. Price 7s. 6d.

ripest, best, most interesting writing." Of the charm and distinction of Mr. Arnold's style it is, of course, needless to speak. The essays here collected are chiefly upon Poetry and English Poets, to which are added essays upon Count Leo Tolstoi and upon Amiel.

The Literary and Theological Essays of Mr. R. H. Hutton are old friends, which we are glad to welcome in their new dress. A brief bibliographical note is prefixed to each volume, showing the dates of the successive editions of the collected essays, a practice which we should like to see more commonly followed.

In "France as it is" we have an interesting and instructive account of the neighbour-country across the Channel and its institutions. It has been carefully put together by two professors of the School of Political Sciences at Paris, specially for English translation, and has been well translated by Mrs. William Arnold. It is a book that should be in every Free Library.

Prof. Paley's "Fragments of the Greek Comic Poets" are extremely disappointing. The easy colloquial tone of the later Greek comedy hardly lent itself to the production of striking passages, nor is Prof. Paley's skill as a translator so marked as to give any particular charm to his renderings. Fortunately, he also prints the Greek text, so that one need not look at his English.

The widow of the late Mr. Cornelius Walford has performed a labour of love in editing the materials left by her husband for the history of Gilds. In her Preface Mrs. Walford leads us to expect that she will complete the "Insurance Cyclopædia" and the "History of Periodical Literature," on which Mr. Walford had spent a vast amount of labour and research. We hope that this expectation may be realized; and in the meantime many of our readers may be glad to possess this memorial of an omnivorous collector and an industrious writer.

The Library Chronicle.

The LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is issued on the 25th of the month, and communications, books for review, etc., intended for the forthcoming number should be addressed, not later than the 15th of the month, to the Hon. Editor,* ERNEST C. THOMAS, *care of Messrs. J. Davy & Sons, 137, Long Acre, W.C.*

Members of the Library Association whose subscription for the current year has been paid are entitled to receive the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING.

The November Monthly Meeting was held at Gray's Inn Library, on Friday, November 2nd, Mr. J. P. Briscoe in the Chair.

It was announced that Mr. T. H. Rabbitt, Librarian, Free Library, Wimbledon, had joined the Association.

Prof. Lund, F.R.C.S., of the Victoria University, and Mr. Wm. Durie, of Gray's Inn, were proposed for election at the next meeting.

Mr. H. R. Tedder read a Paper on "The Bibliography and Classification of French History." After a discussion, a vote of thanks was passed to the writer of the paper. The meeting then adjourned.

At the Council held on November 2, the Auditors' Report was received and ordered to be circulated. The Council resolved, that instead of holding a Special General Meeting, in view of the difficulty of securing a sufficient attendance of country members, a statement should be prepared by Mr. H. R. Tedder and the Secretaries, and issued to all members, with a form of questions to be answered and returned to the Secretaries. Those members who have not already returned it, are requested to do so as soon as possible.

The Council have appointed, as the subject for Mr. Borrajo's Prize this year, "The Place of Local Bibliography in Free Public Libraries."

The next Examination for Library Assistants will be held on the first Wednesday in March. Further particulars will be announced.

The following letter has been received from Dr. Guido Biagi:

Biblioteca Marucelliana,
28 Sept., 1888.

To the President of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

Dear Sir,—I beg to forward herewith, as a gift to the Library Association, the numbers published hitherto of the *Rivista delle Biblioteche*, and the volumes of the *Biblioteca di Bibliografia e Paleografia*, founded and edited by me.

Trusting that these first proofs of the studies on bibliographical subjects that are now being produced in Italy, will be kindly accepted by your most useful Association,

I remain, Dear Sir, yours very truly,
Dr. Guido Biagi,
Librarian of the Marucelliana Library in Florence.

The Council have passed a resolution of thanks to Dr. Biagi, for his valuable present and kindly words.

Library Notes and News.

ABERDEEN.—The Public Library Committee are considering whether it is worth while to continue to receive the specifications of patents, as they are so little consulted.

BELFAST.—The Lending Library was opened on Nov. 15, with 7,800 volumes, a catalogue of which has been compiled by Mr. G. H. Elliott, the librarian.

BRECHIN.—An offer has been received by the Town Council of £5000. from an anonymous donor, to be expended on a Public Free Library, on condition that Brechin will adopt the Libraries Acts.

BRIGHTON.—Mr. W. Madden has been appointed to the librarianship of the Free Public Library.

CROYDON.—The result of the poll taken at Croydon has been in favour of the Acts. The votes were For 6,482, Against 4,736: majority for 1,746.

CUMNOCK.—The late Mr. John Baird has left a bequest of over £5000. to

found public recreation and reading-rooms and museum for Cumnock.

DARLASTON.—The new public buildings, including a Free Library, were formally opened by Mr. Jas. Slater, the Chairman of the Local Board, on Oct. 31.

EDINBURGH.—The Solicitors before the Supreme Courts of Scotland are building a new and spacious library in close proximity to the Law Courts, access to which will be obtained by a bridge on a level with the Courts.

HOYLAKE.—Mr. C. Holt is endeavouring to form a Free Library for Hoylake.

LEOMINSTER.—The Jubilee Committee have recommended that a building be purchased for the purposes of a library, and several meetings have been held in support of the scheme.

LIVERPOOL.—Sir J. A. Picton has been elected chairman of the Library, Museum and Arts Committee for the fortieth time.

LONDON: BATTERSEA.—The new Free Lending Library was opened by Mr. O. V. Morgan, M.P., at a public meeting held at Lammas Hall on Oct. 25th; before which the arrangements of the library were inspected.

LONDON: CAMBERWELL.—The movement for the promotion of the Acts is being vigorously pushed. A public meeting was held on Oct. 23rd, Mr. G. C. Whiteley in the chair, when an address was delivered by the Solicitor-General (Sir Edward Clarke, Q.C., M.P.)

LONDON: CLAPHAM.—A meeting to secure public support for the library contemplated at Clapham was held on Nov. 10th, when the Rev. C. P. Greene, chairman of the commissioners, referred to the splendid start given by an anonymous subscription of £2,000. Nearly £250. was promised at the meeting.

LONDON: FULHAM.—The new Free Library was opened on Oct. 20th by a conversazione. The Bishop of London delivered an address and formally declared the library open. The building has cost about £6,000., and an illustration of the interior appeared in the *Illustrated London News* of Oct. 27th.

LONDON: PEOPLE'S PALACE.—Miss F. Low is resigning the librarianship of the People's Palace on the ground of ill-health.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—The Town Council have appointed seven non-members of the Council on the Library Committee.

LUTON.—The Free Library, which was closed a year ago for want of funds, was reopened on Nov. 6.

MANCHESTER.—The Public Free Libraries Committee have arranged for a series of lectures again this winter, the first of which was delivered at Ancoats Free Library on Nov. 6, by Mr. W. E. A. Axon, on "The Story of Manchester."

NORWICH.—The Free Library Committee are appealing for funds to extend a scheme which was started some time ago for the purpose of supplying libraries of selected books to the Board and other elementary schools, for circulation among the children. £200. has been subscribed already.

NOTTINGHAM.—A new Branch Lending Library was opened at Lenton on Oct. 23, by Mr. Councillor Sands. There was a large attendance.

OLDHAM.—Mr. J. M. Maclean, M.P. opened the winter course of lectures at the Free Library on Nov. 12th.

WELSHPOOL.—The Free Public Library has been successfully worked, for its first year, on a half-penny rate. The initial expenses were defrayed by subscription.

On Oct. 20, a deputation representing the ratepayers of Kensington presented Mr. James Heywood with a marble bust of himself, in acknowledgment of his gift of the Notting Hill Library.

Mr. E. J. L. Scott has been appointed Keeper of the MSS. at the British Museum, in succession to Mr. E. M. Thompson, and Mr. G. F. Warner an Assistant-keeper in the room of Mr. Scott.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Catalogue of Books in the Library of the Alpine Club. London, 1888. 8vo, pp. 111.

Prof. Pollock, who has given an interesting account of the Alpine Club Library in the third volume of the *Chronicle*, has edited this reissue of the catalogue, with the assistance of such specialists as Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Freshfield, and "the general advice and assistance of Mr. H. R. Tedder."

Catalogue of the Tyssen Library in the new Town Hall, Hackney, compiled by Rev. J. Whitehead. London, 1888. 8vo, pp. 92. Price 6d.

This is a collection of books, manuscripts, maps, plans, prints, drawings, etc., relating to or connected with Hackney and its vicinity, formed by the late J. R. D. Tyssen, Esq., and presented to the parish by his sons and executors, with subsequent additions. The library is at present open on Tuesday evenings, from 7 to 9 o'clock.

Great Western Railway Mechanics' Institution, New Swindon. Catalogue of Books. New and Revised Edition. Compiled by Alfred J. Birch, Librarian. Swindon, 1888. 8vo, pp. 551, cloth.

A clearly printed catalogue of a collection of 16,000 vols. on what the compiler calls the "Dictionary plan." But it is in two separate alphabets of (1) authors, (2) titles and subjects, while a third part is devoted to juvenile literature. The contents of the principal works are set out in smaller type.

Battersea Public Libraries. First Annual Report of the Commissioners for Public Libraries and Museums ... 1887-88. 8vo, pp. 12.

The Acts were adopted 16th March, 1887, and the Commissioners appointed on June 1. Mr. Inkster was appointed secretary and librarian on July 20. Two temporary reading rooms were opened in September and November. The Commissioners propose to establish a central library and two branches, and have appealed for public support, but without much response. Sites for the central library and one branch have been secured. There is no financial information.

Thirty-second Annual Report of the Committee of the Birkenhead Free Public Library. 1887-88. 8vo, pp. 15.

The issues of books in the lending library were 148,867, and from the reference library 131,192, the total being an increase of 20,273. The stock is, in the lending library 30,779 vols., in the reference library 10,075—the year's increase being 1,808 vols. Further accommodation is required. The rate produced £1,687 18s. 4d., and a balance of £178 4s. was left in hand on the year's working, after paying £300 off the debt.

Liverpool. Thirtieth Annual Report of the Committee ... presented ... 23rd May, 1888. [Forming pp. 39-45 of the "Annual Supplementary Catalogue," &c.]

The income of the library was £1,258, of which sum £573 was expended in the purchase and hire of books and magazines, and upon book-binding. The number of works issued during the year was 64,119, or a daily average of 217 works, or about 520 vols. The stock was increased by 1,024 vols. and 873 vols. were borrowed from libraries at a cost of £131. The library has been re-decorated. Mr. Wakefield is closely engaged upon the compilation of a new catalogue, of which two-thirds has been completed. The library contains 29,214 works, or 78,248 vols.

City of Norwich. Report of the Free Library Committee ... 1887-8. 8vo, pp. 24.

The stock numbers 11,500 vols. in the lending department, and 5,000 in the reference department, 1,200 of the latter being local literature. The issues for the year were 77,250 or 82,636 vols, being an increase of 1,271. The rate produced £1,045, and the expenditure left a balance of £21 19s. 10d.

The Eighteenth Annual Report of the Library and Club of Messrs. Fredk. Braby & Co., Lim., bears testimony to the good work done by the various institutions connected with the works. The number of volumes lent for home-reading was 1,439, and the stock has increased to 2,761.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Glasgow University Library: Notes on its history, arrangements and aims, by William P. Dickson, D.D., LL.D., Curator of the Library. Glasgow: Maclehose, 1888. 8vo, pp. 87.

This handsomely printed pamphlet was distributed by our President, Professor Dickson, to the members of the Library Association on their recent visit to Glasgow, and will be valued by them as an interesting memorial of the occasion. The library of the University dates back to days when libraries still consisted chiefly of MSS., though unfortunately none of its early treasures survive. Its earliest catalogue dates from 1578, and Professor Dickson traces the process of its growth to our own time, noticing briefly the numerous donations that have been made by individuals. The library now contains about 136,723 vols., without including the Hunterian collection of 13,000 vols. and the Divinity Hall collection of 7,000 vols. Professor Dickson gives a full account of the catalogues and of the system of cataloguing now in use, and the system of management. Mr. Lymburn, the librarian, contributes an interesting and useful "Notice of the Euing Collection of Bibles."

Byways in Book-Land: Short Essays on Literary Subjects. By W. Davenport Adams. London: Elliot Stock, 1888. 8vo, pp. viii, 224. Price 4s. 6d.

A collection of little essays which might serve well enough as newspaper 'turn-overs,' and perhaps have so served, but which hardly deserved the dignity of separate publication. They have no critical or bibliographical value, but are a little more lively and readable than most of the similar books, which Mr. Stock seems never weary of producing.

An Index to Legal Periodical Literature. By Leonard A. Jones. . . . Boston: Soule, 1888. 1a. 8vo, pp. xix, 635.

Mr. Jones is an American lawyer and the author of several well-known legal works, and has compiled a very useful index to matters relating to law and legislation contained in the whole body of periodical literature in the English language published prior to January 1887. The book is calculated to be of great service, not only to lawyers, but to other persons.

The June number of *Library Notes* has an article by Mr. W. E. Foster, on "Progress towards intelligent ideals of the Scope and Method of Public Libraries," and notes of an address by Melvil Dewey, before the Convocation of the University of New York, on "Libraries as related to the Educational Work of the State."

The November number of the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* contains articles on the Bibliography of Wimpfeling, by Dr. G. Knod, and on some early Italian Book-Catalogues (13th to 15th centuries), by Theodor Gottlieb.

The new volumes in the "Great Writers" Series are "Crabbe," by T. E. Kebbel, "Congreve," by Edmund Gosse, and "Goethe," by James Sime. Mr. Anderson's useful bibliographies are of course continued.

The *Building News* of November 9 has an article on the plans for the "Battersea Free Library Competition."

Prof. Edward Arber has issued the seventh announcement of his Transcript of the Stationers' Registers, referring to the Fifth or Index Volume, for which he asks further time. Of the 230 copies of the Transcript, only nine large paper sets and one small paper set remain in the editor's possession. The editor trusts that "when Vol. V appears, it will be found to give, within the compass of a few hundred pages, a clearer view of the English books produced in the days of Spenser, Shakespeare, Bacon and Ben Jonson, than has hitherto been anywhere obtainable."

In connection with the Paris Exhibition of next year, the French Minister of Public Instruction proposes to exhibit the beginning of the general catalogue of French incunabula. The *Bibliothèque Nationale* will itself furnish 15,000 titles, and a circular has been issued to the provincial librarians, requiring their assistance and offering the loan of a copy of Hain to those libraries which do not possess it.

The "First Supplement" to "Poole's Index to Periodical Literature," extending from Jan. 1, 1882, to Jan. 1, 1887, has been published. It is edited by Dr. Poole and

Mr. Fletcher, and has been prepared with the co-operation of the American Library Association. 141 sets of periodicals in 1089 volumes have been indexed, of which periodicals 61 did not appear in the original Index. Fifty-nine indexers have lent their aid, our own country being represented by Mr. W. E. A. Axon, Mr. P. Cowell, and Mr. J. B. Bailey.

We may be allowed to say here that the small-paper copies of "The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury" have been issued to subscribers. The book has been charmingly printed at the Chiswick Press, on hand-made paper, and is illustrated by an engraving by Mr. J. D. Cooper of De Bury's very beautiful Episcopal Seal. There are 100 large paper copies, all of which have been subscribed, to which are added facsimiles of Thomas James's Letter to Lord Lumley, and of a page of the Magdalen College MS. of the Philobiblon. These copies will be issued immediately. Mr. Thomas requests that enquiries as to non-delivery of copies may be addressed to the publishers, Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench & Co.

Correspondence.

A Library Bureau.

I do hope that Mr. MacAlister's excellent scheme for a library bureau may not fall to the ground from the want of encouragement and support from the provincial members of the Association. Here we have promised a scheme which, to my mind, will be of incalculable value to librarians, as well as to those who live away from books and library appliances, and it certainly rests with us, who feel that we shall be benefited by such a bureau, to do all we can to promote its success. Co-operation in this country is far too much neglected. The practical value of it can be seen in the great work of Poole's *Index to Periodical Literature*, and the numerous practical details in library management that come to us from across the Atlantic. With Mr. MacAlister at the head of such a bureau in London, we may soon see a useful rival to that at Boston, U.S.A. Let us, therefore, all co-operate and make the scheme an ensured success.

Thornton, Horncastle. Jno. Clare Hudson.

Notes and Queries.

Lady Grayson.—Can any reader give me some particulars respecting Lady Grayson? She is the authoress of "Viola the Affianced," 12mo, 1839, and "Shadows and Sunshine," 12mo, 1859.

Subscription Library, Hull. W. G. B. Page.

Authors Wanted.—Who are the authors of

1. The Frauds and Abuses of the Coal-dealers detected and exposed; in a letter to an Alderman of London. 12mo. London. 1747, 32 pp.
2. A Call to the Victuallers both in Town and Country, etc. Most humbly addressed to the British Parliament, by a friend to the Victuallers. 12mo. Lond. n. d. [? 1747] 52 pp. H. T. F.

A Correction.

Wigan.—In the June-July No. of the *Chronicle* our notice of Mr. Folkard's Annual Report referred to the number of volumes in the Reference Library as 13,184, instead of 22,700. The former number is the total of volumes *consulted.*

Printed and published by J. Davy & Sons, *at the Dryden Press*, 137, *Long Acre, London. Annual Subscription, post free*, 8*s.*

The Library Chronicle.

EXPERIENTIA DOCET; OR, THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES OF A PUBLIC LIBRARIAN.[1]

By P. Cowell, Librarian, Free Public Libraries, Liverpool.

The recent perusal of a number of free library reports, and of the rules and regulations of certain of these institutions, set me musing, under the influence of such a soporific, on my many years' work and experiences in the Free Libraries of Liverpool. Reports are not very amusing reading, even those which are most novel in character. But they all do themselves great honour and credit, and are disposed to rate their respective libraries highly.

It is doubtful if that omnivorous individual, the general reader, or even that figurative person, the student of statistics, ever consults their pages; but occasionally an adventurous librarian performs that operation, or sometimes an advocate or promoter of the free library movement in search of inspiration for a platform address. Beyond these, who would care if such documents ended their days in one big report, seeing how worthless they are for purposes of comparison with each other, or for testing the growth of literary taste?

Codes of library rules and regulations are more or less lengthy, precise, and particular, but the size of the code is generally in inverse ratio to that of the library. Where no bye-laws exist, rules and regulations are useful in affording librarians the opportunity every now and again of practising a little in the art of law making—not, of course, for their own governance, but for that of others. It might be worth the while of this Association to appoint a special committee for the purpose of drawing up a model code of rules and regulations: not that their existence in a library matters very much, because no one ever reads them—unless by accident they get hung upside down or in a place where readers are forbidden to go. One of the first rules, which this committee would probably draft for a reference library, would be that "no book shall be taken from the library, nor shall any person go behind the enclosure except by permission of the librarian." This rule is desirable, because it has been found that in all libraries men of "light and leading"—or, in other words, light-fingered gentry—go where they should not and lead off, without asking permission, some of "those

[1] Read at the Glasgow Meeting of the Library Association, September, 1888.

silent companions who," we are told, "never chide nor upbraid us." Better for the librarian and readers, if these "silent companions" varied this little peculiarity of theirs. Fortunately, in our public libraries, the laws of *meum* and *tuum* are most satisfactorily observed, notwithstanding the occasional aberrations which sometimes evoke our sorrow for those who have involved themselves and their friends in lasting disgrace. This special committee might devote some time and attention to assimilating the two well known codes of rules which are in operation in connexion with library books, viz: library rule and home rule. I need hardly say that the latter is in marked contrast to the former. When, however, after considerable time and usage this contrast becomes intensified, it may truly be said that "sweetness and light" have dissolved partnership. Judging by outward and inward visible signs, we are sure of grease abounding, where the books have been read and studied. I fear the home rule place of study is not always the ideal one allotted to those earnest readers who burn the midnight oil —and never upset it. Home rule book-markers are not always like those prescribed by library rule; and, judging by results, home rule paper-cutters are unmistakably different. I would also venture to say, speaking inferentially, that home rule book-rests are quite of a different pattern from those which library rule supplies and prescribes.

From the foregoing experiences it will be inferred that differences of opinion arise at times between readers and librarian as to the utility of certain effects produced by an excessive love of study, when the surrounding conditions are unfavourable, and to induce these readers to settle their differences, by means of a small money payment, is not always easy. Yet, here I cannot help saying, from 35 years' experience, and after allowing for a due and an inevitable percentage of careless readers, that when we consider the hundreds of thousands of books we circulate, and the variety of homes to which they are taken, the care taken of them, and the honesty and punctuality with which they are returned, are most creditable and satisfactory. The differences which arise between readers and librarians in a public library are, happily, very few. But what do occur from time to time have a strange uniformity of character. That arising in the lending branches where home rule operates most, I have already described; but that in the reference library generally confines itself to what was the true length of time it took for some member of the staff to obtain a book or books from the shelves for some reader in a hurry. A watched pot never boils, they say, and so, I presume, books wanted in a hurry never come. In the meanwhile those who wait occupy themselves in multiplying minutes into various longer periods of time. With a view of removing some of the odium of this delay from the shoulders of the library assistants, we have adopted the plan of writing in pencil on the back of the slips on which readers write the names of the books wanted, what time they are handed in, and when returned with the books required. It is often somewhat difficult to make these people believe that our time-memorandums express the truth.

I have a notion, though probably it is only analogous to the common belief in the superiority of the "good old times" over the present, that during the first years of our libraries there were more earnest students connected with them, proportionately, than at present; I knew a working paviour (now, I believe, in a much superior position) who read Alison's History of Europe, Gibbon's Decline and Fall, Rollin's Ancient History, the histories of Hume and Macaulay, and many other books requiring thought and study; a blacksmith who read hard at mathematics; a brushmaker whose reading,

though more varied, was always of a high order; and many other working men whose reading was no less commendable.

The enthusiasm of these early readers and their appreciation of the advantages of the library were undoubtedly real and sincere. And, though it may provoke a smile, I am tempted to think that these good feelings were illustrated by their determination to hold a public tea meeting in the month of July, for the purpose of learning more of each other personally, expressing their thanks for benefits received, and, generally, for effecting those verbal deliverances known as "telling your experiences." The demonstration was not a great success, owing, principally, to such weather as is peculiar to the Dog-days. The brushmaker, however, was there, and by reciting an original poem, very remarkable in composition and sentiment, helped to infuse a little humour and pleasantry into the proceedings.

The librarians of the earlier free libraries had to evolve from their own inner consciousness the ways and methods necessary for the conduct of public business. They could not make the circuit of a number of existing public libraries and select from one and another such working arrangements as might best suit their requirements and their aims; but had to be content with the slower process of experimenting, and trying again and again, until this or that plan succeeded. Since this time a new generation of librarians has arisen, possessing all the knowledge accumulated by the experience of the past, and capable of organizing a public library with promptness and decision in an able and efficient manner.

Some of this newer school have at times been somewhat sarcastically commented upon for the time and attention they bestow on designing furniture, fittings, and mechanical contrivances for saving time and labour in the library, rather than cultivating those tastes and pursuits which are of the student and bibliographer. And they have in many cases laid themselves open to this animadversion by the enthusiastic and ostentatious way, in which they exhibit their mechanical inventions, and describe and discuss their relative merits. The critics of these librarians ought not to speak of them too censoriously, for the work they have done has been useful and necessary, and such, in some cases, as even criticising librarians themselves have not hesitated to utilize for the benefit of their own libraries. This kind of work cannot find indefinite occupation for librarians. It will come to an end, if it has not nearly done so already; and then almost surely will literature and bibliography find in their engaging study scope for that energy and activity, which has been so usefully and honourably exhibited in other directions.

A librarian cannot possibly be efficient in his work, unless he reads much and widely, if not deeply. His work is not to pronounce judgment on vexed questions, but to enable readers to solve them for themselves, and to direct them into the less trodden paths of literature. Whether by adding private literary work to library duties a librarian can succeed in discharging these with greater vigour and efficiency, depends upon circumstances. Perhaps a more probable reading of a certain hackneyed saying would be "the librarian who *writes* is lost," for writing is more exhausting work than reading. Usually committees of management appoint their librarians rather on account of their practical and business qualifications, than for their special bibliographical knowledge and literary attainments. And in this, as business men, they are probably right. It must not be forgotten that much of this practical and mechanical character of modern librarians is due to the training they have received in free libraries, where bibliography

cannot be studied except in the mildest possible way, and where business capacity serves to bring young men into notice sooner than literary taste and skill. Something too is due in many cases to the comparative poverty of the libraries where they have been trained, which compels them to perform multifarious duties and practice strict economies. Hence the ways and means resorted to to lighten the one and effect the other. A knowledge of bibliography and of authorities and sources of information will come with years and opportunities. Happy is the library, whose chief partakes of the character of both the old and new school of librarians!

The business of a free library is always extensive and pressing enough to cause its librarian to take a lively interest in all means calculated to promote order and system, and enable the usually limited staff to perform their duties with economy of time and labour. In the larger public libraries, cataloguing and efficient arrangements for rapid delivery of books demand much attention, and I must confess to taking considerable pleasure in this part of my work. I am not very favourable to the establishment of a library warehouse, or bureau, as some love to call it, where library stationery, and furniture and fittings of a selected pattern are kept on sale; for I fear it might help to destroy originality, healthy emulation, and much of that pleasure in our work which springs from carrying out arrangements and conducting business in a way peculiar to the institutions to which we respectively belong. Further, I would say, let catalogues exhibit variety of style; classification of books, diversity of method; and shelf and other arrangements, originality of plan and working; seeing that the goal of usefulness may generally be arrived at in several ways, each as good as the other while distinct in features and character. There is, however, one exception to this liberty of the subject I would make, and it is in connexion with library statistics, for I think it is high time some common understanding was arrived at in order to remove some of their mysteries. Would this Association some time undertake to settle what a volume is and what it is not? Are quarterly and monthly magazines, pamphlets and specifications of patents, all *volumes*?

A writer in a recent number of *Blackwood* has recounted some of the troubles of the librarians of the British Museum—troubles which have the full sympathy of librarians who are not of the national library. Like them we had to suffer from the "spelling bee" nuisance, and still endure with them under the infliction of prize questions, pedigree hunting, and miscellaneous questions of which the following may serve as a specimen: "Dear Sir,—This his to Inform you that i saw a Black Red game Cock Bred at Lord Derbys, will you Bee Kind Enough to Make inquiries what the Portrait Can Bee taken for of a true Likeness and send word to A— B—."

One of the principal articles of my creed as a librarian is the necessity of creating the feeling of ease and homeliness among all readers who visit a public library, whether regularly or only occasionally. And this feeling is, I think, greatly induced by giving as much freedom in it, as may be compatible with general order and the safety of the property.

Access to the shelves would be a great boon to many book-lovers and students, and a privilege they would exercise without abuse. The pleasure it would confer may easily be inferred, and so, too, its educational value in showing readers what a catalogue cannot, the scope and character of books with which they are unacquainted. On the other side, there is the excessive attractiveness of this privilege, which might prove a hindrance to study and a great hindrance to business, the peculiar views

of peculiar people respecting the rights of ownership in corporate property, and the ignorance which prevails as to the object and purpose of book-numbers; to

"Set all things in their own peculiar place,
And know that order is the greatest grace."

is only understood poetically, not practically, by the majority of persons.

Previous to the opening of our Picton Reading Room, a room in the Brown Library, measuring some 40 ft. by 28 ft., was set apart as a students' room. The entrée to it was by special permission obtained on application to the library committee. If the committee were satisfied that anyone wanted to use the room for purposes of study, a ticket was issued to him which held good for twelvemonths. In it he had a small table to himself, he was provided with writing materials, he could have as many books as he required, and he was removed from the hum and movement inseparable from the crowded general reading room. There is no doubt that on the whole it worked well, and was much appreciated. But to those persons who think that no difference of treatment ought to be made in a public library, and that the general reader and time-killer ought to fare in regard to privileges just as well as the literary man and the student working hard for his B.A., such a room undoubtedly created some distinctions. I happen to be old fashioned or heretical enough to think that rewards for "good conduct" may be given with advantage even in a library, and that the man who works is deserving, in the interests of the general community, of having some consideration shown to him over the man who plays. This room is now merged into the Picton Reading Room, which is conducted mainly on the lines of the old students' room; but with more privileges and an unrestricted entrée.

It is not unreasonable to regard students, professional and literary men, to whom time is important and books are indispensable, and who do so much in extending the benefits of the library to others, as deserving of special consideration over and above the general reader; and in so doing to provide them with such conveniences and facilities for work as we should deem indispensable at our own writing-tables at home. Ink is not only a great convenience to such persons, but is a matter of considerable importance as a saver of time, and I must bear testimony that I hardly know of any damage, much less serious damage, to our books by the readers who use ink constantly. We provide pens, ink and blotting paper at certain tables; but naturally, and wisely, object to allow illustrated and valuable books to be inspected or perused at them. For these, special tables are provided near the librarian's desk, and more immediately under his supervision. Tracing from valuable books is not rigorously refused, when required for a definite useful purpose, and we are satisfied about the pencil that will be used, and the experience of the person who will use it. I need hardly say that ink has its limits, and that we do object to that material being used for tracing.

The privilege enjoyed by readers of introducing themselves to various magazines and reviews, without the intervention of our officials, and the trouble of sending in their names and addresses on paper, is much appreciated with us, as it is in some other libraries; and this applies also to a like privilege we accord readers in regard to a number of important atlases. A few years ago we permitted an *ad libitum* use of a large number of dictionaries and books of general reference, and, although we have seen reason to curtail the freedom in regard to these, they are still more easily obtained than other books.

It is true, as you were informed last year, that the free use of the alcoves round

the Picton Reading Room, for the purpose of retirement and quiet study, was abused, principally through the access which readers obtained to the books on the shelves. Still I do not think that the depredations (principally of one man) would have caused me to recommend the committee to close these alcoves, could I have seen my way clearly towards securing them wholly for the use of *bona fide* students, to whom quietness and seclusion are very desirable, and, in some cases, almost indispensable.

I am sometimes tempted to think that statistics are made too much of in our libraries, and that the pleasure and comfort of readers are sacrificed too often to an over-anxiety to exhibit in reports large issues and percentages. To have to fill up a paper in order to consult an ordinary atlas, dictionary, directory or magazine, and this for every such book or magazine you want, certainly adds to the irksomeness of visiting such a library, and must detract from its usefulness. Hence I would again repeat that the more conveniences and facilities for work and study we can see our way to give readers, the more popular and useful we shall make our libraries.

It must be observed that all extra rooms in a library, whether for students, ladies, boys, or, as I have heard in one case, for rate-payers, increase the difficulties of its superintendence and effective management, while they add to the opportunities for making glosses in the books, and for occasional errors of judgment in regard to the abstraction of leaves and plates; both of which weaknesses librarians regard with neither tenderness nor sympathy. A single public room, where the readers sit *vis-à-vis* at tables wide enough not to make such a mode of sitting unpleasant and annoying, will prevent much forgetfulness about the rights of *meum* and *tuum*, and render the work of superintendence comparatively light.

In regard to ladies' rooms, I have never yet seen the necessity for providing a special apartment for them, though possibly I may be a little obtuse in the matter. I admit that many men are very susceptible to ladies' charms, and might be disposed to neglect their studies in science and history for that, which Pope said was the proper study of mankind, but I do not think we need consider these young men's peculiar condition, which probably is not of a permanent character. Ladies frequently visit our library for the purpose of reading and study, and I welcome their coming for the sake of the general good effect their presence creates. I have never received from any of them a complaint of annoyance, nor observed anything on the part of either sex which could lead to the inference that reading was not their primary object. The necessity for a special room I should regard as a reflection on the management of the library.

We librarians are naturally jealous of the honour of our respective libraries, and watch with much interest for the signs of growing literary taste among the readers with whom we have so much to do. But these, I think, should not prevent our calling a spade by a term less plain and clear, when the plainer word would prevent any misconception of idea. And this is shown in the way some reports deal with that class of literature, which, in connexion with free libraries, is occasionally animadverted upon rather severely by their opponents, and which even the friends of free libraries would prefer to see less in demand.

We may classify novels and romances under the names of literature, belles lettres, prose fiction, or divide it and call one portion prose fiction and the other juveniles, but their issue is not reduced. I believe that a large number of people who are now lukewarm or opposed to free libraries would be strong advocates for them, were it more

apparent that they were used as places for affording the means for self-instruction and study rather than for recreative reading.

Rate-payers are more and more disposed to require a full and satisfactory *quidpro quo* for their money, and it is useless to ignore this feeling, for in many towns it is very strong, and we know at times makes itself felt in a way which we cannot but consider inimical to education and social progress. It may be asked with some pertinency whether the desire of managers of libraries to issue many volumes, to fill their reading-rooms with readers, and generally to make them popular, has not tended to encourage the circulation of light literature. Novels can be bought very cheaply, and this, with certain articles of a creed which still finds currency, has produced at least an amount of complacency in regard to the issue of novels, which has not been without its effects on their circulation.

A bulletin issued by the Prefect of the Seine in 1884, on the municipal libraries of Paris, has the following remarks under the head of

LES ROMANS.

"A ce sujet, il est à remarquer que le plus grand nombre des demandes s'addressent au roman; fait qui s'explique par l'état d'esprit dans lequel se trouve l'artisan ou l'ouvrier après une journée longue et laborieusement remplie. A ne considérer que le but poursuivi par les bibliothèques populaires, ce genre d'ouvrage n'est pas depourvu d'utilité; il éveille d'abord et il entretient le goût de la lecture. L'habitude de lire est le premier degré, la base indispensable. Cette habitude une fois établie, l'emprunteur de livres arrivera facilement à des lectures instructives et fortifiantes, son goût se formera et s'éclairera peu à peu; il passera du simple roman d'intrigue aux peintures de moeurs, puis aux relations de voyages, aux récits historiques ou scientifiques; l'esprit ouvert par degré à des curiosités nouvelles, il arrivera à trouver dans des ouvrages sérieux et d'une étude véritablement profitable le même délassement qu'il croyait ne pouvoir chercher que dans des œuvres d'imagination."

This statement of the effect and tendency of novel reading is not altogether new. It has its sponsors still, though I am inclined to think they are not so numerous or so sanguine as they were. But it will be interesting to me, and no doubt to many others, to hear from those present who have given this subject consideration, and have had opportunities of judging, how far this supposed effect and tendency, so confidently claimed for novel reading, are justified in fact. I do not wish to be misunderstood on this subject. It is not a question whether novels serve a useful purpose and are desirable in our libraries; but whether we are justified by experience in encouraging their circulation in the expectation of developing a taste for higher literature. Novels may be defended on surer grounds, if they need any defence, and such as will serve us better in advocating the establishment of free libraries than an argument at which many shake their heads doubtfully. It would be wrong to suppose that illiterate readers are never piqued by an historical romance to turn to the less vivid page of history for further details of the life of some historical character, or of some great event. Occasionally this does happen. But, certainly, the statistics of reports and, I venture to think, the experience of most public librarians, do not justify the general statement put forward from time to time so broadly, that the desire for dwelling in the earthly halls of history and science is naturally developed in the working classes through a previous dalliance in the airy castles of romance. If it is said that the reason why library statistics do not give evidence of a growth in literary

taste, in the form of increased issues in the higher classes of literature, is the change of readers which is constantly taking place in our lending libraries, it may be replied, that it is strange that *no* evidence of this improvement should be exhibited in the statistics of actual issues, and that readers should always leave just before they have placed their foot, so to speak, on the first rung of that ladder spoken of by the prophets of the development of the literary taste through novel reading. Having drunk freely from the fount of novels, and as a consequence acquired an improved taste, why do our readers then desert us, and whither do they go to satisfy it? One would fancy they would make some stay, however short, to satisfy their new found taste for history and travels. That no improvement in the relative proportion of novels and more solid literature lent now and ten years ago at our principal free libraries has taken place, a comparison of the statistics will easily prove; and this, I think, is calculated to throw doubt, notwithstanding occasional instances to the contrary, on the oft repeated story about the improved taste for higher class literature which novels so surely develop.

If you urge that it is desirable on philanthropic grounds to provide novels in our public libraries; that they serve a useful and beneficial purpose in providing occupation for somewhat vacuous minds; that they act as home magnets, and that many men find in their company an antidote to less desirable pursuits and pleasures abroad; that they cheer and brighten many an otherwise languid hour of mental weariness, and enliven the monotonous and colourless life of the humbler classes; that they do educate, in a way, by presenting pictures of character, scenery, manners and customs, in an attractive dress; and that romantic and adventurous youths, tired of school books, exercises and impositions, would not read at all unless they could do so with Marryat, Mayne Reid, Kingston, Ballantyne and other writers, as their companions, then you urge reasons which have weight and cogency.

These uses of novels are important, and I know personally of some interesting cases, in which the amusement, or it may be the excitement, of a romance has prevented indulgence in a much worse pursuit. It is not the exclusion of works of fiction from our public libraries that I recommend, but rather an increase in the number of copies of standard works in preference to meeting the demand for those which are merely new and ephemeral. To read a first class novel a second, or a third time over, is surely better than to peruse a number, regardless of literary excellence. There is no necessity for free libraries to compete with subscription libraries in supplying the latest issues from the press. Our work, more immediately, is to instruct the public and elevate their taste. The satisfying of the popular demand is of secondary importance. The shadow which falls across the brief for novel reading, arises from too great an indulgence in this one kind of reading, and the indifference it apparently creates for that which is more instructive and intellectual.

The Picton Reading Room is made, as far as possible, a students' room, and no novels are issued in it, unless we are satisfied they are for reference or making a quotation. The adjoining Brown Reading Room is of a different character: in it newspapers, the illustrated journals and novels, are easily obtainable, and the great demand and evident appreciation for them cannot be questioned. But it seldom or never happens that we find the habitual readers of the Brown Reading Room making their way into the more studious Picton Room, though one room is as free and unrestricted as the other. Their taste is for the light and amusing; and as far as we can judge, and we have good opportunities for doing so, they do not seem to develop any other.

Frequently during the day persons, other than habitués, enter the Picton Reading Room and ask for a novel, but, on being informed that novels are not issued in that room, they content themselves with a book of a different character, and this is the case (it is computed) with three out of every five of such persons. It will be seen from our Picton Reading Room experience, that it is possible to satisfy persons wanting novels with a better class of books, and so, I trust, show them that much pleasure and enjoyment may be had in the region of fact. While, on the other hand, our Brown Reading Room experience points to little change of taste produced by light reading, and apparently no wish to explore the graver walks of literature.

The older free libraries for the most part have committed themselves to a liberal supply of novels. I notice that in the newer library of the city of Glasgow the percentage of novels read is very small, and that the supply is small also. If the issues are due to the supply, I can only think that the managers have seen reason for scepticism in the faith of novels leading so surely to the higher paths of literature. A more probable way, I think, will be found through the medium of high-class newspapers; the illustrated periodicals, such as the *Illustrated London News* and the *Graphic*, which appeal so pleasantly and powerfully through their illustrations to all classes; and, generally, through the magazines, particularly *Chambers's Journal*, *All the Year Round*, *Cassell's Magazine*, and *The Leisure Hour*, which combine the useful and the entertaining.

And here I would say a word or two in favour of free lectures. My experience has taught me that such lectures on scientific, biographical, historical, and other instructive subjects, made popular and interesting by means of illustrations shown by the oxy-hydrogen light, are a valuable and successful means of adding to the usefulness of a public library. Reference by the lecturer to several good books on his subject has a useful effect in stimulating reading. The free lectures, which for many years have been given in the lecture hall of our library, have been attended with the greatest success. Mechanics and labourers, to whom the terminology of even elementary scientific books is a difficulty and a deterrent, crowd to our lectures and listen, with marked attention and evident pleasure, to discourses made doubly instructive by the accompanying experiments and lime-light illustrations. During the last winter and autumn 60,113 persons attended 56 lectures, all of which were adapted to the intelligence of an ordinary mechanic.

Free libraries, especially in our large cities and towns, are supplied with books adapted to all tastes and requirements, whether of the educated or uneducated; and they are not managed in the exclusive interests of any particular class. I conceive that they should be made, as much as possible, the centres of local literary and scientific work. They would do well to provide rooms (say at a small rent) for the meeting of the various local learned societies—if not, the older and those well-to-do—of the younger and somewhat struggling societies. They might provide at least a notice board for announcing the meetings of such societies, and for advertising lectures and such educational work as comports with the dignity and character of a library. In this way the importance and value of the public library to the citizens generally would be advanced, and gradually become more thoroughly recognised.

It is not possible within the limits of a single paper, and without putting a severe strain on human endurance at a public meeting, to exhaust the list of the troubles and virtues of librarians, or the weaknesses and peculiarities of readers. The preparation of

such a catalogue I must leave to some brother-librarian, or may be to a reader who will doubtless see good reason for reversing the order and relation of these things, and teach us to see ourselves as readers see us. Neither can I discuss, without the same difficulties awaiting me, in how many directions the usefulness of a public library may be advanced. Though the frequent references I have made to the Liverpool Free Library have been unavoidable, I still feel that some apology is due for them. My hope and excuse is that they may serve to teach what things to avoid as well as to adopt. There is one fact upon which I think we shall all agree, viz: that when the managers of our public libraries do see a way, whereby the institutions under their care can be increased in usefulness, they are not slow to proceed thereon. And, while this is the case, the prosperity of free public libraries and their appreciation by the public are assured. It is a love for literature, and a sense of its advantages, that free libraries are endeavouring to create, and in opening and pursuing every way in which this can be effected lies clearly and surely the important work of free public libraries.

PROF. DZIATZKO'S CATALOGUING RULES.[1]

By Dr. R. Garnett, of the British Museum.

Dr. Dziatzko's code of cataloguing instructions for the Library of Breslau,[2] which I am to consider this evening, is one of the fullest, most systematic, and most completely thought-out bodies of instruction ever put forth on a similar subject. I can only regret want of time to treat it with the thoroughness that its own thoroughness deserves.

Books, from one point of view, may be divided into books having and books wanting title-pages. Dr. Dziatzko commences with the latter, and takes first such books as have title-pages describing some person or persons as the author or authors, or otherwise the intellectual parents of the work. The simplest and fortunately the most ordinary case is when there is only one such person, and when the name appearing on the title-page is his own. In such a case, the only question that can arise respects the form of name to be adopted by the cataloguer—Sage or Le Sage, Mill or Stuart Mill, Culloch or MacCulloch. In almost all these cases Dr. Dziatzko's practice is that of the British Museum, with which I have no inclination to differ. I may remark, however, once for all, that I am by no means of opinion that the practice of the Museum should be recommended, indiscriminately, for adoption in all libraries. It may be right, even for a library of the size of that of Breslau, to enter Voltaire under Arouet, but I am convinced that one less extensive, or any library of whatever magnitude lending out books to any great extent, or designed for ordinary classes of readers, would do well to adopt the simplest method of cataloguing it could find, without too much regard to the claims of logic or the refinements of philology. It must also be premised that I am to consider Dr. Dziatzko's rules for an alphabetical catalogue abstractedly as such, taking no account of the special advantage he enjoys in being able to accompany his catalogue with an index of subjects.

This being presupposed, I shall proceed to enumerate the principal points in

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[1] Read at a Monthly Meeting of the Library Association.

[2] *Instruction für die Ordnung der Titel im alphabetischen Zettelkatalog der Königlichen-und-Universitäts-Bibliothek zu Breslau:* Berlin, 1886. 8vo, pp. xi. 74.

which Dr. Dziatzko differs from Museum practice, and, therefore, as I believe, generally speaking, from the practice of the larger English libraries. It is not meant to imply that his variations may not sometimes be improvements in the case of libraries of less extent, particularly where it is desirable to economise cross-references.

1. In the instance of a saint, pope, or sovereign prince, who has attained literary distinction (sich als Schriftsteller bekannt gemacht) before attaining his dignity, the name appearing upon his books is taken instead of his official designation, *e.g.* Aeneas Sylvius, not Pius II. If this principle is strictly carried out, Dr. Dziatzko must enter Napoleon the Third under Bonaparte, or at least under Louis Napoleon, but I cannot believe that he does.

2. In a note, Dr. Dziatzko speaks of an inconvenience attending the cataloguing of sovereigns under their Christian names, the interpolation of names of a different class. He instances Friedrich Wilhelm coming between Friedrichsthal and Friedwald. In the Museum catalogue, headings under the Christian names of persons are kept together, in uninterrupted alphabetical sequence.

3. In the case of a change of name, the Museum takes the name first employed by the writer, Dr. Dziatzko the last. There seems no abstract reason for preferring one practice to the other, except that Dr. Dziatzko's is contrary to his rule in the case of sovereigns, already mentioned. Strict uniformity in either involves the cataloguer in seeming absurdities. Browne, afterwards Hemans (Museum), is very bad; and Maxwell, formerly Braddon (Dziatzko), no better. But want of uniformity would be worse still.

4. When the real name of a pseudonymous author is known, Dr. Dziatzko takes such name as his heading; the Museum takes the pseudonym. English librarians, it is believed, frequently adopt Dr. Dziatzko's plan, though it must require some courage to enter the works of George Eliot under Evans, or Lewes, or Cross. The great objection to it, however, is that it logically necessitates a similar proceeding in the case of anonymous books, whose authors are known to the cataloguer.

5. Dr. Dziatzko, for instance, puts the anonymous editions of Waverley under Scott; this obliterates one of the most interesting facts about the book, and one of which a bibliographer is especially bound to keep a record. It is further open to great practical objections; it is most desirable that every book should, from the very first, get into the catalogue under the right head, and that there should be as little changing and shuffling as possible. But, under this arrangement, there is no certainty that any book of unknown authorship may not be sent from one end of the catalogue to the other, by the writer suddenly coming to light. And what of cases of disputed authorship? One librarian may be quite sure that Thomas a Kempis wrote the Imitation, another may feel equally convinced of the title of Charlier de Gerson, while an Italian librarian will manage to believe in the Abbot of Vercelli. For two centuries the authorship of the Whole Duty of Man has been disputed between Archbishop Sterne and Lady Pakington, but Mr. Doble has recently assigned strong reasons on behalf of a new candidate. It is too much to expect a librarian to decide such controverted questions. How many refused to believe that Robert Chambers wrote the Vestiges of Creation, until the matter was placed beyond controversy by Mr. Alexander Ireland!

6. The next important point in which Dr. Dziatzko's rules differ from those in force at the Museum, is one of great consequence. In default of an author, editor, or official body promulgating the work, the Museum takes any proper name that may occur; Dr. Dziatzko does not. The *Pervigilium Veneris*, for instance, would be entered by

the Museum under Venus, but by Dr. Dziatzko under Pervigilium; even though, having a German translation to catalogue, he is compelled to make a cross-reference under Nachtfeier. Those who may feel inclined to agree with him, and they may probably be many, should consider whether the principle admitted in the case of this heading compels the certainly very inconvenient system of ignoring the proper name, even when it is that of some person whose being, doing, or suffering, is the cause of the existence of the book. Thus, for instance, "Der schmertzliche Todes-Fall der weil. Frau Sabina Degelowin" is catalogued under Todesfall, not Degelowin. Anyone, therefore, who wished to learn whether the catalogue contained any reference to the lady, and did not happen to know the exact wording of the title, would fail in his inquiry, unless a biographical cross-reference were written at the cost of making two titles where only one was required. All accustomed to use the Museum catalogue will acknowledge that one of its most useful features is the appendix of anonymous publications to all the more important articles, brought by the Museum rule under the same heading as the person to whose life or writings they relate, and serving to enrich the article devoted to him. Dr. Dziatzko may reply that the want is met by his subject-catalogue, but those who have experienced the great superiority of an alphabetical to a subject catalogue for ready reference, will desire the former to be as complete in itself as possible.

7. A similar argument may be alleged in favour of another point of Museum practice not generally imitated, the bringing all academical and periodical publications together under the respective heads of Academies and Periodicals. By this means the institution is enabled to give a complete conspectus of the literature of these descriptions in its library; and, by simply printing extra copies of the articles in the catalogue, to produce two special bibliographies of the highest importance. It does not follow that the system need be recommended to smaller libraries, which in most cases would probably do better to take the title of the separate society or periodical,—Camden Society, Atlantic Monthly, &c. It is, however, surprising to find Dr. Dziatzko carrying this method so far as to enter the Psalter under Psalms, instead of under Bible with Psalms as a sub-heading. With the article Bible thus dislocated, any estimate of the total wealth of the library in Biblical literature becomes impossible. The same remark applies to the dispersion of official documents throughout the catalogue by ignoring the country to which they belong. Thus, the Code Napoléon will be found under Code, in proximity, it is to be supposed, to the codes of Lycurgus and Mr. Justice Stephen, but far away from every official document of the French Empire.

8. In another point Dr. Dziatzko's rule differs from the Museum, as it seems to me, for the worse. Except in such very special cases as Ulphilas, he gives no cross references from translators. If he contemplated a mere finding catalogue, there would be nothing to be said; but his catalogue is bibliographical, and surely the article Pope must be a poor piece of bibliography, if it does not inform us that Pope translated Homer! He deserves, nevertheless, great commendation for declining to encumber his catalogue with cross-references from editors and preface writers, who have contributed little else than their names. It would have saved much time, space and money, if the Museum had been equally forbearing. On the other hand, the omission of cross-references from anonymous editors seems to me a defect in Dr. Dziatzko's system.

9. In a minor point Dr. Dziatzko has the advantage of the Museum, and deserves

the thanks of bibliographers for laying down a sound rule for the cataloguing of academical dissertations. Up to 1750, in default of explicit evidence to the contrary, he assigns the authorship to the Praeses, after 1750, to the Respondent. The Museum always prefers the respondent, and, hence, in the majority of instances, attributes the authorship to the wrong man.

10. Another difference between Dr. Dziatzko and the Museum is that he does not enter under initials, nor, if I correctly apprehend him, even give a cross-reference from the initial to the heading preferred. There is something to be said on both sides. Unquestionably the initial affords the easiest means of finding an anonymous book in a catalogue, when it is correctly known; but, if it is not known, the book is undiscoverable without a cross-reference. Logically, it can hardly be disputed that the initial under which an author chooses to express his personality has as good a right to be selected as his name; but some may think that the scale is turned by the consideration of practical convenience. In a large catalogue like the Museum's, however, the recognition of initials as headings conduces to convenience in one important respect—the extent to which anonymous works by the same author, such as those of Gustave Brunet, are brought together, and the fact of their anonymous publication at the same time recorded.

11. If I correctly understand Dr. Dziatzko, he would enter the originals and translations of works, without authors or editors, under different headings, according to the wording of the title—Vitae Patrum under Vitae, Vite de' Padri under Vite. This seems so contrary both to principle and expediency that I am in some doubt whether I may not have misapprehended him.

The total number of Dr. Dziatzko's rules is 342, many divided into several distinct clauses, with notes and comments. 150 relate to the arrangement of the titles in the catalogue, a most important, but a dry and complicated subject, which it would be exceedingly difficult to render intelligible in an oral address. I refer to it here principally for the sake of stating that the Museum practice has been modified in several respects, since the printing of the general catalogue was commenced, and is no longer fairly represented by the rules as published. Dr. Dziatzko's rules are probably the most careful and elaborate yet devised, and would well repay, as indeed the entire subject would, the investigation of a librarian possessing the requisite leisure.

I feel that the tone of my discussion is more negative than may seem compatible with the general sympathy in which I find myself with Dr. Dziatzko's views and methods. This is inevitable: perfect agreement leaves nothing to be said; differences alone call forth criticism. The critic of any system, proposed for any particular library, should remember that much depends upon the condition and completeness of the library itself. Judging from the titles of books instanced by Dr. Dziatzko as examples of his rules, the Breslau Library would seem to be extensive, and rich in rare and erudite works. It cannot, however, rival in either respect the library of Göttingen, to which Dr. Dziatzko has been appointed since my paper was read. It is, indeed, an important field of library administration, in which he has the best wishes of his English colleagues, to many of whom he is personally known. He must have found another code of rules in operation there; it will be interesting to be informed on some future occasion how far he has succeeded in amalgamating this with his own, and what modifications, if any, he has seen fit to introduce into the latter.

[For some remarks by Prof. Dziatzko upon the foregoing article, see another page of this number.—Ed.]

THE ARRANGEMENT OF LARGE SUBJECT-HEADINGS IN DICTIONARY CATALOGUES.[1]

By JAMES D. BROWN, Assistant Librarian, Mitchell Library, Glasgow.[2]

THE subject of this Paper is one with which nearly every librarian becomes more or less familiar from the moment the question of cataloguing a library presents itself, and is, I think, of sufficient importance to merit separate consideration. There is much about the subject very difficult to make plain, owing to the complicated and technical nature which it assumes from connexion with related branches of cataloguing, and for my shortcomings in respect to clearness I must crave some indulgence. To some extent the subject is connected with the larger and more involved question of general classification; but, as the title indicates, this Paper is confined to the more restricted subject of arranging entries after they have been classified and thrown into large divisions in catalogues. It is, of course, only to very large subject-headings embracing hundreds of titles that these remarks can be held to refer, as small entries under subjects of less importance do not require any special arrangement.

I am not aware that the subject has ever been previously discussed at length, and, apart from the cursory notice bestowed on it in the general consideration of the questions of classification and cataloguing, I cannot find much regarding it in journals or elsewhere. The matter has been left very much to the discretion of individual librarians, and no rules of general application have ever been laid down, so far as I can discover. This freedom from recognised rule no doubt accounts for the great diversity of treatment observable in the arrangement of subject-headings in the catalogues of public libraries, for, notwithstanding an almost universal acceptance of the "Dictionary" plan of catalogue, no attempt has ever been made to secure agreement in the method of arranging large subject-headings.

It will, no doubt, lie within the experience of every librarian present to find that books on certain subjects accumulate in large numbers almost insensibly, while others which are specially collected also gather in large numbers. The effect of this increase, whether insensible or deliberately fostered, is that in course of time libraries become possessed of large collections on perhaps fifty or a hundred great subjects, such as Art, Bible, Education, England, Ireland, Literature, Scotland, Theology, United States, &c., and it becomes necessary, in order to make such subjects accessible in their smaller divisions, to adopt some plan of arrangement.

From an examination of a large number of public library catalogues of the Dictionary type, I find that there are five methods in use of arranging books under large subject-headings. These are 1st, by *Titles;* 2nd, by *Authors;* 3rd, by *Classification of chief sub-heads;* 4th, by the *Class letters* in use in the library; and 5th, by *Arbitrarily numbered groups*. Of these I may at once pass over the 4th and 5th plans, which are very seldom used, and proceed to consider the arrangement by *Titles*, which is by far the most common, especially in the catalogues of lending libraries. The main feature of this plan is an alphabet of titles in one sequence, under the subject, obtained

[1] Read at the Glasgow Meeting of the Library Association, September 1888.
[2] Since Chief Librarian of the Free Public Libraries, Clerkenwell.

either by placing the leading word of the title first, or by transposing the title in order to bring some descriptive word to the front. For example :—

ENGLAND and its People, Impressions of, by Miller.
—— History of Civilisation in, by Buckle.
—— Laws of, Commentaries on the, by Blackstone.
—— Notes on, by Taine.

The chief value which this form of arrangement possesses is its simplicity, and the economy of space which its use sometimes secures. Otherwise it is open to the objection of scattering books on the same branch of the main subject over the whole alphabet of the heading. For instance, "England and its People" by Miller, and "Notes on England" by Taine, are works treating on somewhat similar lines of the social and political life of England as seen by strangers, but these are in most catalogues, at the word ENGLAND, separated by a considerable number of titles of books quite different in character. No ordinary reader desiring a book on the social life of England would ever dream of looking under "England and" or "England, Notes" for the object of his quest, and it is questionable if the mere reading of perhaps 300 titles under the heading "England" would enable him to select a single book by its title which would seem suitable for his purpose; nor would a reader in search of a book by its title invariably find it at a subject-heading, owing to the number of different words under which it could possibly appear in the same alphabet. Another point, which tends to show the inadequacy of mere titles to display with accuracy the relative parts of a large subject, is the impossibility of finding suitable descriptive words in the titles themselves to enable them to be grouped in correct sub-divisions. For this reason chiefly is it possible to account for works on the History of England being scattered over an alphabet covering several pages under such catch-words as "ENGLAND, Annals," "Chronicles," "Early," "State" and "Under," when with the utmost propriety the whole could be grouped together as "England, History." It can, likewise, only be ascribed to the general weakness of the plan of title-arrangement that at "England," works on definite divisions of that subject are made to appear under such inconsequent and irrelevant catch-words as "and," "as," "at," "before," "described," "description," "during," "from," "happy," "in," "is," "miserable," "moral," "on," "present," "sketches," "the," and "what." Few readers have the leisure necessary for the careful reading of all the titles under a large subject-heading, and even with sufficient leisure only those with special knowledge could distinguish by the titles alone what books were on the same division of the main subject. The separation of the kindred parts of a large subject invariably follows the use of the leading word of the title alone in arranging books, and the addition of catch-words not forming part of the title, such as are sometimes used in the Index-Catalogue of Manchester Reference Library, only helps in a very limited degree to bring together the cognate parts of a subject. For these, and other equally strong reasons, it seems plain that the use of the alphabet of titles under a large subject is less effective as a ready guide to its component divisions than the general use of the plan would seem to indicate, and one has little hesitation in saying that, as an aid to readers in search of special parts of a subject, it is practically useless.

The arrangement by *Authors* is much less common than the title-plan just discussed, but it is in use in the catalogues of a few of the larger libraries. Under this plan all the books on a large subject are arranged in one alphabet of authors'

names, or where the authors are unknown, under the leading word of the title. For example—

ENGLAND.
—— Blackstone (Sir W.) Commentaries on the Laws of England.
—— Buckle (H. T.) History of Civilisation in England.
—— Miller (H.) First Impressions of England.
—— Taine (H.) Notes on England.

This plan of arrangement is best adapted for scholars or readers, who are familiar with the names of authors, and of what branches of a subject they treat. To the vast majority of readers it is just as confusing as the plan of arrangement by titles. Let us suppose that a library has a large collection of books on Art, numbering perhaps 500 or 600, and that these are arranged at the word "Art" in the catalogue under authors' names in one alphabet. How, amid such a wilderness of names and titles, can a reader interested in Japanese Art, but ignorant of any author on the subject, find what he wants without reading the whole list? Probably some will suggest at Japan, which is perhaps a smaller and more likely heading. But the probability is that at the word "Japan," the reader would be confronted by another large heading also in one alphabet of authors, and so be baffled in his search, or be reduced to the laborious task of reading over all the headings at one, or other, or both of the headings, perhaps to find that, after all, the library was without a special work on the subject. It is true, that in the Catalogue of the Birmingham Reference Library, in which the subject entries are arranged on the author plan, there are occasional references given under large subjects like "Art" to such sub-divisions of it as Japanese and Russian Art; but it simply means that by this plan a reader must make half-a-dozen or more additional references under a subject before he discovers what the library actually possesses, and it means, as regards the catalogue itself, the multiplication of entries without great corresponding benefit. In every respect the author-arrangement is as liable to scatter and disguise books on definite parts of a large subject as the title-arrangement just noticed, and it should not be forgotten that, as authors appear under their own names in the body of every Dictionary catalogue, there is less reason for their repetition as the first words under subject headings.

From all I have seen in connexion with the "Title" and "Author" arrangements I am induced to think that both are unsatisfactory, save for very small entries which require no special arrangement. The "Title" arrangement is, if anything, even more inconsistent than the "Author" arrangement, especially in the matter of leading words, of which most titles furnish a choice of two or more. For instance, I have seen Miller's "First Impressions of England and its People" catalogued under "England and," "England, First," and "England, Impressions," of which words neither is at all descriptive of the character of the book. Again, to place Green's "Short History of the English People" under "English People," instead of at "England, History," seems to carry the system of close adherence to the mere title far beyond reasonable limits. Why a separate heading at "English" should be established when the inclusive word "England" exists in immediate proximity is one of those anomalies of classification which arise as a result of making the title of a book its subject. A large number of catalogues seem to be compiled on the system of placing books only under their titles. Real subject-entries in such catalogues are of comparatively rare occurrence, and the works which one finds grouped under a subject-word are merely there because the

word happens to form part of the title. Hence it arises that most subjects in such catalogues are more or less imperfect, because books with titles which give no indication of what they are about, like some of those marked with an asterisk in the accompanying specimen page, appear merely in the body of the catalogue as title entries, and not under the subject at all. No doubt there is one small class of readers to whom the title-entry under a subject-heading is of occasional use, and on whose behalf many catalogues of public libraries seem to be compiled. I refer to those readers who go to a library knowing only the title of a book, or a portion of it, and who look naturally in the part of the catalogue which they suppose contains their book. In a case like that, supposing the book to be "England and its People," and known as that alone, it would, perhaps, be found, if the cataloguer had not by some chance decided to place it at "England, First," "England, Impressions," or "England, People," at all of which words it could possibly appear. When such a choice of words occurs under which to place a book at a subject-heading, it renders the title entry useless for the class of readers to whom reference has been made. Many books give some indication by the title of the subjects of which they treat, and others have titles sufficiently distinctive to claim a separate entry in the body of the catalogue. It then becomes of less importance to provide exclusively for the wants of readers in search of titles alone, as the majority of such readers are served either by the title-entry in the body of the catalogue, or by the entry under the subject. But there is really no possible plan of showing certain titles clearly, unless it be resolved to make each subject-heading a huge concordance, and place books under authors, subjects, and every characteristic word contained in titles; a method which is not likely ever to be attempted.

I have now to notice the plan of classifying the entries into sub-heads under large subjects. A familiar example of this style exists in the 4th Supplementary Catalogue of the Liverpool Reference Library, which is probably one of the best arranged of British library catalogues. The plan adopted in it is to place together in large groups the chief related sub-heads of the main heading; to separate general from special, and historical from practical works. As an example of the manner in which the larger subjects are subdivided, it will be sufficient to mention "SCOTLAND," which is displayed in seven sections, as follows—"Antiquities," "Biography," "Churches and Ecclesiastical History," "Constitution, Laws, &c.," "Description, Social Life, &c.," "History," and "Language and Literature." Though some of these sub-divisions are, as regards the subject "Scotland," much too broad and inclusive, they are, notwithstanding, quite suitable for the portion of the Library which the Supplementary Catalogue represents. Were the whole library catalogued in one book, however, it would be needful, owing to the great extension which would result in the size of many of the subjects, to adopt a much more minute sub-division of large subjects. It would be necessary to give separate headings, under "Scotland," for instance, to important sub-divisions like Art, Banking, Botany, Education, Peerage, Roads, Trade, &c., and to distribute the contents of sub-divisions like "Description, Social Life, &c.," which in the Liverpool Catalogue includes such anomalous subjects as "Architecture," "Fisheries," "Libraries," "Witchcraft," "Directories," and "Sport." Although not exactly the plan which I would advocate, classifying is a near approach to the subject-arrangement adopted in the catalogues of some American libraries, to which I will presently direct your attention.

I have now examined the principal plans of arrangement for subject-headings used

in the catalogues of British public libraries, and will now proceed to describe the plan which some study of the question, and an extensive examination of all kinds of dictionary-catalogues, have led me to consider as most convenient for readers.

The whole question of arrangement under large subject-headings is governed very much by the literature which a library possesses on such subjects, but it is obvious that whatever plan of arrangement is adopted, that which affords readers the most assistance in finding what they want is the very best. The nearest approach to perfection in this respect, which has come under my notice, is the catalogue of the Peabody Institute, Baltimore, in which large subjects are arranged in an alphabetical sequence of sub-heads. It is this plan, with the addition of numerous cross-references within the subject itself, and a somewhat narrower and more minute sub-division of subjects, which I would venture to propose as being well suited to the needs of general readers in all libraries. Under the main heading there would be arranged, in alphabetical order, a sequence of sub-heads representing every specific division of the subject proper which the library contained. These would be bound together by a system of cross-references from one part of the subject to another, and from the subject itself to the relative literature in the body of the catalogue. Such a plan shows clearly what a library has on a certain subject, which is undoubtedly the main object sought to be accomplished by such entries, and it facilitates reference on the part of readers, by placing books under the exact division of the subject to which they relate. This is pretty clearly illustrated in the sheet of specimens submitted with this paper, on which a comparative view is given of the plans of arrangement by author, title, and subject. What reader, ignorant alike of titles and authors, could find a book on the history of Scotland by either the title or author arrangement in this specimen? Probably not one, and in regard to nearly every other subject it would be mere accident, or a patient search over the whole entry, which would finally crown his labour with success. As regards card-catalogues, in which no general view can be obtained of any part of a subject owing to the slips having to be read one by one, such a sub-division as is now indicated is absolutely indispensable. By a judicious and plentiful use of cross-references between related sub-divisions of large subjects, the whole can be rendered accessible to any one, and to some extent the advantages of the classified system of cataloguing can also be secured.

The question of placing books under one or both of two headings, at which they can appear, has some reference to the matter of subject-arrangement. It is a question which must be decided very much according to the general system on which a catalogue is compiled. There are books which must appear under every subject to which they relate, and books which are best catalogued at both of two possible headings. It would be difficult to lay down any hard and fast rule in regard to which of two subjects a book should be placed under, and equally hard to say from which one a reference only should be made. But the catalogue, which is fullest in respect to subject entries and cross references, is unquestionably the best, as being most likely to meet most of the variety of demands made upon it by readers.

There are certain sub-divisions under subject-headings, which would have to undergo a further sub-division within themselves, especially when they are of a large and complex nature. Such a sub-head at "Scotland," as "Church of Scotland," might include many hundreds of entries, and it would be needful to sub-divide them further into such minor headings as Acts, Laws, Missions, Parishes, Patronage, Pluralities,

TITLE ARRANGEMENT.

Scotichronicon, by Fordun. 2 v. 1759.
Scotland. Albyn's Anthology, by Campbell. 1816.*
—— Annals of the Persecution, by Aikman. 1842.*
—— Ballad Airs, Traditional, by Christie. 2 v. 1876-81.
—— Black Kalendar of, by Millar. 1884.
—— Cakes, Leeks, Puddings and Potatoes, by Seton. 1864.*
—— Caledonia, by Chalmers. 3 v. 1807-24.*
—— Caledoniad, Poems. 3 v. 1775.*
—— Caledonian Sketches, by Carr. 1809.*
—— Clydesdale Flora, by Hennedy. 1878.*
—— Cronykil, Orygynale, by Wyntoun. 2 v. 1795.
—— Evergreen, by Ramsay. 2 v. 1724.*
—— Flora Scotica, by Hooker. 1821.
—— Flora Scotica, by Lightfoot. 2 v. 1792.
—— Heraldic Manuscript, by Lyndsay, 1878.
—— Highland Society, Transactions. v. d.
—— Husbandry, Systems of, by Sinclair. 2 v. 1813.
—— Journey through North Britain, by Campbell. 2 v. 1810-11.
—— Martyrland, by Simpson. 1863.*
—— Masons, Grand Lodge of, Laws. 1870.*
—— Scenery and Manners, by Stoddart. 2 v. 1801.
—— Trials, Ancient Criminal, by Pitcairn. 3 vol. 1833.
—— —— Narratives from Criminal, by Burton. 2 v. 1852.
Scots Worthies, by Howie. n. d.
Scotsmen, Eminent, by Chambers. 3 v. 1875.
Scottish Arms, by Stodart. 2 v. 1881.
—— Elegiac Verses, by Maidment. 1842.
—— Life and Character, by Ramsay. 2 v. 1861.
—— Melodies, Ancient, by Dauney. 1838.
—— Nation, by Anderson. 3 v. 1860-63.
—— Rite, Ancient, by Loth. 1875.
—— Worthies, Lives of, by Tytler. 3 v. 1831-40.

* In many catalogues arranged on the title plan, these entries would only appear in the body of the catalogue as title-entries, and under the author's names, but not at "Scotland" at all.

AUTHOR ARRANGEMENT.

Scotland. Aikman (J.) Annals of the Persecution. 1842.
—— Anderson (W.) The Scottish Nation. 3 v. 1860-63.
—— Burton (J. H.) Narratives from Criminal Trials. 2 v. 1852.
—— Caledoniad, Collection of Poems. 3 v. 1775.
—— Campbell (A.) Albyn's Anthology. 1816.
—— —— Journey through North Britain. 2 v. 1810-11.
—— Carr (Sir J.) Caledonian Sketches. 1809.
—— Chalmers (G.) Caledonia. 3 v. 1807-24.
—— Chambers (R.) Dictionary of Eminent Scotsmen. 3 v. 1875.
—— Christie (W.) Traditional Ballad Airs. 2 v. 1876-81.
—— Dauney (W.) Ancient Scottish Melodies. 1838.
—— Fordun (John de) Scotichronicon. 2 v. 1759.
—— Hennedy (R.) Clydesdale Flora. 1878.
—— Highland Society. Transactions. v. d.
—— Hooker (W. J.) Flora Scotica. 1821.
—— Howie (J.) Scots Worthies. n. d.
—— Lightfoot (J.) Flora Scotica. 2 v. 1792.
—— Loth (J. T.) Ancient Scottish Rite. 1875.
—— Lyndsay (Sir D.) Heraldic Manuscript. 1878.
—— Maidment (J.) Scottish Elegiac Verses. 1842.
—— Masons, Grand Lodge of, Laws. 1870.
—— Millar (A. H.) Black Kalendar of Scotland. 1884.
—— Pitcairn (R.) Ancient Criminal Trials. 3 v. 1833.
—— Ramsay (A.) *ed.* Evergreen. 2 v. 1724.
—— Ramsay (E. B.) Scottish Life and Character. 2 v. 1861.
—— Seton (G.) Cakes, Leeks, Puddings, and Potatoes. 1864.
—— Simpson (R.) Martyrland. 1863.
—— Sinclair (Sir G.) Systems of Husbandry. 2 v. 1813.
—— Stodart (R. R.) Scottish Arms. 2 v. 1881.
—— Stoddart (Sir J.) Scenery and Manners. 2 v. 1801.
—— Tytler (P. F.) Lives of Scottish Worthies. 3 v. 1831-40.
—— Wyntoun (A. of) Orygynale Cronykil. 2 v. 1795.

SUBJECT ARRANGEMENT.

SCOTLAND.

AGRICULTURE. Highland Society. Transactions. v. d.
—— Sinclair (Sir J.) Systems of Husbandry. 2 v. 1813.
—— *See* also at names of Counties in body of Catalogue.
BIOGRAPHY. Anderson (W.) Scottish Nation. 3 v. 1860-63.
—— Chambers (R.) Eminent Scotsmen. 3 v. 1875.
—— Tytler (P. F.) Scottish Worthies. 3 v. 1831-40.
—— *See* also at names of Individuals in body of Catalogue.
BOTANY. Hennedy (R.) Clydesdale Flora. 1878.
—— Hooker (W. J.) Flora Scotica. 1821.
—— Lightfoot (J.) Flora Scotica. 2 v. 1792.
CHARACTER. Ramsay (J.) Life and Character. 2 v. 1861.
—— Seton (G.) Cakes, Leeks, Puddings, and Potatoes. 1864.
COVENANTERS. Aikman (J.) Annals of the Persecution. 1842.
—— Howie (J.) Scots Worthies. n. d.
—— Simpson (R.) Martyrland. 1863.
DESCRIPTION. *See* SCOTLAND, TRAVEL.
FREEMASONRY. Grand Lodge of Masons, Laws. 1870.
—— Loth (J. T.) Ancient Scottish Rite. 1875.
GUIDE-BOOKS. *See* SCOTLAND, TRAVEL.
HERALDRY. Lyndsay (Sir D.) Heraldic Manuscript. 1878.
—— Stodart (R. R.) Scottish Arms. 2 v. 1881.
HISTORY. Chalmers (G.) Caledonia. v. 1. 1807.
—— Fordun (J. de) Scotichronicon. 2 v. 1759.
—— Wyntoun (A. of) Cronykil. 2 v. 1795.
—— *See* also Scotland, Church, Covenanters, Rebellion, etc.
MUSIC. Campbell (A.) Albyn's Anthology. 1816.
—— Christie (W.) Traditional Ballad Airs. 2 v. 1876-81.
—— Dauney (W.) Ancient Scottish Melodies. 1838.
POETRY: COLLECTIONS. Caledoniad. 3 v. 1775.
—— Maidment (J.) Scottish Elegiac Verses. 1842.
—— Ramsay (A.) Evergreen. 2 v. 1724.
TOURS. *See* SCOTLAND, TRAVEL.
TRAVEL. Campbell (A.) Journey. 2 v. 1810-11.
—— Carr (Sir J.) Caledonian Sketches. 1809.
—— Stoddart (Sir J.) Scenery and Manners. 2 v. 1801.
TRIALS. Burton (J. H.) Narratives from Criminal Trials. 2 v. 1852.
—— Millar (A. H.) Black Kalendar. 1884.
—— Pitcairn (R.) Ancient Criminal Trials. 3 v. 1833.

Statistics, Teinds, &c., which would each form a group under the sub-head Church of Scotland. It would also be necessary to take from the sub-head Church of Scotland, such bodies as the Associate Synod, Relief Church, Free Church, and United Presbyterian Church, not to speak of Burghers and Anti-Burghers, Cameronians and Morisonians, which in nearly every catalogue that has a representation of Scottish church literature are invariably huddled together in one great mass. But these are points somewhat foreign to the main purpose of this paper, and must be left for disposal on their own merits.

What is of much more moment in connexion with this subject of arrangement is the question of its practicability, especially as regards considerations of expense and the additional labour likely to be incurred. As regards extra expense, which would arise mainly on account of extra printing for sub-heads, it may be said that very large subjects are so few that the total number of headings needful would not materially increase the cost of production, while the resulting benefit to the public of such necessary sub-divisions would sufficiently justify any extra outlay, if it was not altogether out of proportion to the importance of the library. The question of additional labour is the principal objection which can be urged against the plan, if we except the objections likely to result from the natural feeling of conservatism against change, which is sure to animate many believers in the old title or author plans. It is really a consideration of some moment, but one, nevertheless, which we must not forget has been partly met at Liverpool, Baltimore, Boston, and, no doubt, many other places, where large libraries exist; though I am not aware of any other British library besides Liverpool. The difficulty is one which will by and bye have to be everywhere faced, as libraries increase in size and subjects become limitless, and the principal problem which will require solution is the possibility of compiling a definite code of rules, which shall be applicable to all the great subjects. This is a matter, in my opinion, which might be made the object of some attention at the hands of the Library Association, with a particular view to ascertain if a series of sub-heads could be compiled for large subjects, which would be serviceable in aiding cataloguers in their plans of arrangement, and in securing some measure of uniformity in dictionary-catalogues. In conclusion, the sum and substance of this paper is simply to urge that, under large subject-headings in catalogues, books should be arranged in an alphabetical sequence of their specific subjects, similar to what is shown on the specimen page now submitted. By this plan every minor division of a great subject can be clearly displayed, and if all these divisions are connected by a network of cross-references, consultation is made simple for readers and librarians alike. The specimen page submitted shows 32 works arranged on the three systems of title, author and subject, the last with titles abbreviated to show the possibility of making the headings as concise and small as the others; and I think no further demonstration of the great superiority of the subject arrangement will be necessary, if a few minutes are devoted to a comparison and test of the three plans.

STEPHEN GABRIEL PEIGNOT.[1]

By R. HARRISON, Librarian of the London Library.

FOR the pursuit of bibliography no field more favourable and prolific can easily be found than France. Many of her kings, princes, statesmen and favourites, have been great book collectors, and their names are devoutly reverenced by zealous bibliographers. The splendid editions and beautiful bindings once possessed by Henry of Valois and Diana of Poitiers are still of priceless value in the eyes of collectors, while the names of De Thou, Fouquet, La Vallière and others, enhance the merit and the cost of any book that may once have stood upon their shelves. To France we look for our great instructors in bibliography. Bure and Brunet, Barbier and Quérard are household words with librarians, not to speak of innumerable French writers on special departments of the subject.

Chief among these specialists stands the name of Etienne Gabriel Peignot, whose laborious career came to an end so recently as the month of August, 1849, at the age of 82. He was born at Arc, in Barrois (Haute Marne), on the 15th May, 1767. His father destined him for the law, and for a time the young man practised as an advocate at Besançon.

He was twenty-two years old, when the Revolution broke out and the Bastille was taken. He was not much of a politician, but the tenor of his opinions may be gathered from the fact that, in 1791, he was one of the Constitutional Guard of Louis XVI. Under the Directory he was appointed Librarian to the Central School of La Haute Saône at Vesoul, where he availed himself of the disorder caused by the Revolution to collect many valuable books, dispersed by the suppression of the monasteries and the flight of the aristocratic *émigrés*. Subsequently, under the Empire, he became Principal of the College in Vesoul. His next appointment was that of *Inspecteur de la Librairie* at Dijon. In 1815, after the Restoration, he was made Master of the Royal College of Dijon and Inspector of Studies at the Academy of the same town.

Though so different in his work and works from our Thomas Hearne, there is something in the marvellous industry of Peignot that recalls the plodding penmanship of the Oxford literary antiquary. Peignot was an omnivorous reader, and he always read with a pen in his hand to note down any remark or fact that he thought worthy of preservation. In this way he accumulated materials for his numerous published and unpublished works. I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Folkard, the able Librarian of the Wigan Public Library, for a list of thirty-eight, which are to be seen in that Library.[2] That collection is not complete. Quérard gives a list of sixty-seven separate works, of which he places twenty under Bibliography; nineteen under History and Biography; eight under Archaeology; four under Philology; eight under Literature; three under Fine Arts, and five under Elementary Instruction. Several of these are mere pamphlets. Over and above the printed books are about fifty works, which Peignot left in manuscript. Most of his printed works were issued in small numbers, and occasionally with the puerile distinction of impressions on coloured paper, blue, green, pink, etc., and they soon become scarce. The most extensive work among his manuscript remains was a common-place book, which

[1] Read at a Monthly Meeting of the Library Association.

[2] Since printed in Mr. Folkard's excellent and useful catalogue of the "Bibliography in the Reference Department of the Wigan Free Public Library," of which twelve copies have been printed separately from the general catalogue of the library.—ED.

he entitled Myriobiblon Français, a *resumé* of fifty years' reading, alphabetically arranged, in some twenty octavo volumes. His passion for collecting and classifying historical as well as literary facts is exemplified in a voluminous chronicle (unpublished) of all the executions of criminals from the sixth century to the year 1789. George Selwyn himself could hardly have desired a more interesting pocket volume. In this work all kinds of punishment inflicted by society in its own defence are described in detail and arranged reign by reign, and day by day in ghastly procession. A history of private and secret presses, with a list of their productions, forms another volume of the manuscript remains. Bibliographies relating to the Inquisition, to the beard, the hair, to baldness, horses, and other out of the way topics, follow. This curious collection of MSS. is said to have been deposited in the Public Library of Dijon.

Of Peignot's printed works the most important for librarians and bibliographers in general, is the "Dictionnaire raisonné de Bibliologie," 2 vol. 8vo., 1802, with a supplement of 374 pages, published in 1804. This work is full of valuable information, much of which has been *conveyed* into other books, without acknowledgment, by authors of some reputation. "An Englishman, Mr. Thomas Hartwell Horne," says Peignot in a notice of his own works, "has done me the honour to lay under contribution my Dictionary of Bibliology, and other bibliographical works of mine for the composition of his 'Introduction to the Study of Bibliography,' 1814." M. Bailly, sub-librarian of the City Library at Paris, is also charged by Peignot with freely helping himself from the Dictionary in his "Historical Notices of Ancient and Modern Libraries," 1827. But the most shameless of all plagiarists, was a Dr. Namur, librarian of the University of Louvain, who adopted three-quarters of the work of Peignot and published it in his own name, as "The Librarian's Manual:" prefaces, matter, notes, all are the work of a pair of scissors applied to Peignot's Dictionary, and to the Bibliographical Dictionary of Etienne Pseaume.

Peignot's "Dictionary of works condemned to be burnt, suppressed or censured," 2 vol. 8vo., 1802, recommends itself by its very title as full of interest, though naturally it is far from being a complete list of its kind.

Not the least interesting of Peignot's works on art is the volume devoted to researches into the lugubrious pictorial sermon, known as the Dance of Death, so often seen during the later middle ages in churches, cloisters, and on the walls of cemeteries. The grotesque attitudes of the grim skeleton, as he invites or provokes his victims to their fates, are in strange contradiction to the solemnity suggested by the coming event. Peignot treats of the paintings at Basle, of Holbein's designs, and of designs on the margins of ancient hour-books.

Much more might be said of Peignot's numerous works, were space not wanting. He was not a profound bibliographer, nor had he the advantage of a residence in the French capital, and a resort to its splendid collections. Still, his books form a curious library of their own, replete with information on matters small and great, and hardly ever make dull reading. In 1830, he published a list of his own works, because writings had been attributed to him, which were none of his. Some of his earliest productions too he had either forgotten or wished to disown. As stated above, Peignot died at Dijon on the 14th August, 1849.

HENRY BRADSHAW.[1]

In the few brief years of its existence, the Library Association has suffered severely at the hand of Death; and conspicuous amongst our losses are those of Henry Coxe, Henry Stevens, and Henry Bradshaw. All of them were pre-eminent in their devotion to the service of books, and the two latter in particular were also marked by their devotion to the interests of our Association. Henry Bradshaw's active participation in our work did not, indeed, begin until 1881; but, when he had once come amongst us, he entered with such heartiness into our proceedings, and exercised such a fresh and stimulating influence upon our operations, as only those who know our inner history can fully appreciate. His sudden and unexpected death, now nearly three years ago, brought to many of us a more than ordinary sense of personal bereavement. Soon afterwards, Mr. C. E. Grant, one of our members and an intimate friend of Mr. Bradshaw, contributed an interesting obituary notice to the pages of this journal.[2]

The story of Henry Bradshaw's life has now been definitively told by Mr. G. W. Prothero, at a length commensurate with the interest and importance of the theme. It seems only fitting, therefore, that some one of ourselves should express our appreciation of the tribute offered to Bradshaw's memory by Mr. Prothero's book, and at the same time should put upon final record our sense of the invaluable services Bradshaw rendered to those studies which must always have a special interest for librarians, as well as of the honour he reflected and the benefits he conferred upon the Association as one of its most distinguished presidents.[3]

The main facts of Mr. Bradshaw's life may, for our present purpose, be very briefly summarized. Born on February 2nd, 1831, he received the later portion of his schooling at Eton, where he became captain of the school, and proceeded to Cambridge as a Scholar of King's, of which college he became a Fellow in 1853. For some time he entertained the idea of entering the Church, and spent some two years as a schoolmaster at St. Columba's, but gave up the experiment, in his own words, "with feelings of nothing but the most unmitigated disgust." From boyhood, moreover, his bookish tastes had been pronounced, and they seemed to carry him in the direction of bibliographical work. In November, 1858, he was appointed principal assistant in the University Library, and thus began a connexion which lasted, with very brief interruption, until his death. In October, 1859, he resigned his post, as Mr. Prothero conjectures, because the routine duties left him too little time for his own work. He seems to have applied for an appointment in the British Museum, but the strict limitations

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[1] A Memoir of Henry Bradshaw, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and University Librarian. By G. W. Prothero, Fellow and Tutor of King's College, Cambridge. London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1, Paternoster Square, 1888. 8vo, pp. xi. 447. Price 16s.

[2] Mr. Grant's excellent paper is not superseded even as a record of facts by the fuller narrative of Mr. Prothero, who does not, I think, mention the very interesting circumstance that "at the beginning of his career Mr. Bradshaw contemplated a new edition of Tanner's *Bibliotheca Britannico-Hibernica*, and made important collections with this object": *Library Chronicle*, vol. iii. p. 32.

[3] The following is a list of the chief obituary notices and articles which appeared upon the death of Mr. Bradshaw:—*Cambridge Chronicle*, Feb. 12, 1886; *Cambridge Review*, Feb. 17 (signed G. W. P.); *Academy*, Feb. 20 (J. H. Hessels); Feb. 27; *Saturday Review*, Feb. 20; *Athenæum*, Feb. 20; *ib.* (Rev. F. E. Warren); *Library Chronicle*, March (C. E. Grant); *The Printers' Register*, March 6 (signed William Blades); *Daily Telegraph*, March 6; *Macmillan's Magazine*, April (Arthur Benson).—For most of the references in this note I am indebted to Mr. William Blades.

of age were insurmountable. London, therefore, was not thus to benefit at the expense of Cambridge, and in June, 1859, Bradshaw was appointed by the Library Syndicate to a position specially created in connexion with the University Library, at a nominal salary of £20 a year. He was to overhaul and re-arrange the manuscripts and rare and early printed books, which had been allowed to fall into great neglect and disorder. As he told Dr. Furnivall long afterwards: "My happy time was when I was looking through the manuscripts, free to come and go, and to cut up books as much as I pleased for twenty pounds a year." But before long the allowance of £20 was increased, and in June 1863 was made £200 a year. During all this time, though Bradshaw's position was thoroughly established, he had no formal status or title. He greatly delighted in his work; as he wrote to a friend later in the same year: "At present the University pays me liberally for that which is of all others the thing which gives me greatest pleasure." On the vacancy in the librarianship in 1864, Bradshaw was urged to stand, but declined, and the Rev. J. E. B. Mayor was elected without a contest. Less than three years afterwards Bradshaw received an intimation from Mr. Mayor that he intended to resign. As he wrote to M. Holtrop, the distinguished incunabulist: "The news that Mr. Mayor was going to resign his place of librarian unsettled me very much, because it was just possible I might succeed him; and if not, I should leave Cambridge altogether and work for you and myself at Oxford, which is at present an unworked field for true bibliographers"; and further on he says: "As for my titles, I have none whatever. In the library I am nothing whatever. I receive a salary on the express stipulation that I tell the world that I have no status whatever in the place. It is singular, but true." On March 8th, 1866, Bradshaw was elected to the librarianship without opposition, and thenceforward his entire existence was intimately identified with the University Library until that sad and fateful morning of February 11th, 1886, when his servant found him sitting in his chair, as if asleep; a little Irish book lay on the table before him,—but he had done with this world's books and libraries for ever.

Once only had he any serious thought of changing his sphere of library work. In July, 1881, when the death of Mr. Coxe left a vacancy in the office of Bodley's librarian, it was suggested in influential quarters that Bradshaw should become a candidate. For a little, he was somewhat dazzled at the prospect of another Fellow of King's following Thomas Hyde to the librarian's chair at Oxford; but after reflection he wrote to one of the Oxford curators: "The more I weigh the matter the more I am convinced that I could do more good here than I could possibly do there; and this alone has sufficed to bring me to a deliberate decision to remain here." And soon afterwards he wrote congratulating Nicholson upon his appointment in the most hearty and appreciative terms.

During the years of his quiet work in the Library, it is remarkable to notice the wide variety of subjects on which Bradshaw was led to bend his powers. Of the general subjects of bibliography and palæography he made himself a master, though with that *plus quam* Socratic irony which marked his character, he would frequently affect to be ignorant of either. His special work in the library, however, had naturally brought with it a considerable knowledge of books and MSS. and of their individual history, and he learned enough even of out-of-the-way tongues, like Pali and Thibetan, not merely to serve his own cataloguing uses, but to enable him to make valuable suggestions to Oriental specialists. Mr. Prothero mentions several instances of the sureness of instinct

with which he found his way through palæographical difficulties, not the least notable, perhaps, the masterly manner in which he dealt with the extraordinary story as to the origin of the famous Codex Sinaiticus, with which that earlier Shapira, Constantine Simonides, tried to deceive the world in 1862. His taste for mediæval service-books may have been naturally developed from his association with the manuscripts of which they form such an important part, but the particular enquiries upon which he spent so much time and toil appear to have been taken up from a desire to assist the editors of the Cambridge edition of the Sarum Breviary and the Statutes of Lincoln Cathedral. Here, again, he speaks of his own work with the utmost modesty: "I know next to nothing, he writes, "about what the young men call liturgiology." His earliest and his latest bibliographical love is accounted for by his Irish connexions. His father bequeathed him a valuable collection of Irish books, which he presented to the University Library in 1870, by which time he had increased it to over 5,000 articles. Some of his most valuable work was done in the elucidation of the remains of Celtic literature, and some of his latest work was upon the history of printing in Belfast. One of his favourite authors was Chaucer, and all the world knows that Bradshaw was one of the greatest Chaucer critics of our time, and all the world laments that he was never able to undertake that monumental edition of Chaucer, which he meditated for fifteen years. Great as were the services he rendered to the study and the students of Chaucer, the story of the fortunes of the projected work will remain one of the saddest episodes in the history of learning. Nothing, indeed, but a perusal of Mr. Prothero's pages can give an adequate idea of the great number of special and recondite enquiries which Bradshaw took up in furtherance of his own studies or those of others. I was myself a grateful profiter by his services in this kind. When I was troubled over the curious word *assub* in Richard de Bury, I wrote to Mr. Hessels; the very next day's post brought a letter from Bradshaw :—

University Library, Cambridge, 4 *Sept*/84.

I do not like to trouble you with needless letters, but Mr. Hessels brought me a difficulty in Richard de Bury. Surely when the sun sinks and becomes below the horizon, he 'decidit et fit a sub.' I never saw the phrase, but it is very much the same as the quite familiar *ab extra* and similar compounds. No doubt the man who wrote *assub* for *a sub* did not know what he was writing—but this is not uncommon with scribes. I am glad to find you have a wholesome prejudice against possible Hebrew derivations.

As it happened, this explanation turned out not to be correct, and the word proved to be Arabic. The sentence as to "possible Hebrew derivations" had reference to an amusing letter from a kindly clergyman, who wrote for my benefit a twelve-page letter proposing to connect the word with the *Iasub* of the Vulgate version of Is. vii. 3. Not long afterwards Bradshaw did me a greater service by putting down before me, on the library table, an unrecorded MS. of the *Philobiblon*, which he then allowed me to carry away for the purposes of my work. Upon looking into it, I found reason to suppose that it might be the very MS. from which the *editio princeps* was printed at Cologne in 1473, and I wrote accordingly to Bradshaw, who quickly sent me the following letter:—

King's College, Cambridge, March 28/85.

I am delighted to hear your news of the Laing MS. Few things as a rule are more difficult than to find the actual MS. original of a xvth century edition of a book. The little stamps of the "Three Kings" on the binding point to Cöln, even apart from the half erased entry at the beginning "Liber domus Sancte Barbare..." at that place.

These letters, unimportant in themselves, have at least a melancholy interest now that the hand that wrote them is still, and also show that, despite his indifferent

reputation as a correspondent, their writer did not always neglect to answer letters, and that he could sometimes even volunteer them.

But the subject to which he devoted the most continuous attention is that for which no less awkward name has been devised than *palæotypography*. His studies of predilection seem to have centred about that profoundly interesting period of the transition from the written to the printed book, when the invention or 'inspiration' of printing came to lend the wings of lightning and the voice of thunder to the written word for evermore. No student of the history of the art of printing has ever brought to the subject happier natural powers or more untiring devotion. Bradshaw possessed a wonderful accuracy of eye, and an astonishing quickness of intellectual perception, which M. Jusserand has happily described as a sort of "pouvoir divinatoire," together with a most minutely and profoundly retentive memory. He was, of course, deeply interested in the work of Caxton, and here in Mr. Blades Bradshaw found a kindred spirit, and we are not surprised to learn that for twenty-five years they were correspondents. How delightful, indeed, must have been the communion of souls on that interesting occasion, when Mr. Blades went down to Cambridge and, over a bottle of wine in the college garden, read to Bradshaw the whole of the historical portion of his yet unprinted "Life of Caxton!" From the press of Caxton, his studies naturally carried him to the workshops of Colard Mansion at Bruges, and of Ulric Zel at Cologne, and to the whole development of the 'art' of printing. Of the pains and thoroughness with which he pursued his researches, our limits will not permit us to speak save with the greatest generality. He regarded the early history of printing, when printers were their own typefounders and there was so much individuality about the types and methods of working, as a branch of the history of art. As Mr. Blades has pointed out, he studied all the technicalities of punches and matrices and types, of paper-moulds and water-marks. He worked out, from a careful study and comparison of the remains of their work, and not merely from their books, but from every scrap of paper that could be recovered from the binding of an early volume, all the peculiar methods and idiosyncrasies of the various printers and presses. He then arranged and grouped his facts on what he called the *natural-history* method. As he wrote to Mr. Winter Jones in 1870: "I have been at work for years trying to reduce the matter to a more scientific basis; to be able to look at the treatment of these books from a natural-history point of view—and here your own little blue lists of *genera* in the zoological department have been of material service to me—my object being to avoid the enormous amount of talk which has for years past been associated with descriptions of early-printed books and, by putting facts side by side in their natural order, to let facts speak for themselves."

But although Bradshaw thus established a new method, if we may not say a new science, yet of these accumulated stores of erudition, all that he ever put into print consists of a few 'memoranda,' and a number of papers communicated to journals and societies, and to the works of others! He could never make up his mind that he had discovered the last fact, or put the finishing touch to his work. And so that very passion of perfection became a hindrance and a stumbling-block—a source of loss to the world and of pain to himself. As he bitterly expressed it, in a letter of warning to a friend:—"It has been my curse all through life that I want the power or gift, or whatever you like to call it, of finishing what I work at; and all the minute research in the world is only rendered more hopeless by this one failing." Good work, no doubt, should not be hurried; but, in this world of steam and electricity, men will not wait,

and Death is oftentimes yet more inexorable than they! So Henry Bradshaw found him!

It will perhaps be gathered from this brief survey of his work that, though Bradshaw was made a librarian, he was born a bibliographer. How far the two occupations are compatible may perhaps be doubted, but certainly to combine them with success would seem to require a very special and unusual combination of qualities, as well as circumstances. If the librarian who reads is lost, what are we to think of the librarian who *researches?* Moreover, it is frankly admitted by Mr. Prothero, that his habits and disposition were marked by that constitutional inactivity, which is frequently to be found associated with the literary temper. He undoubtedly lacked some of the qualities of a "commander-in-chief," which, according to Mr. Quaritch, are required for the administration of a large collection of books. He was unfortunately deficient in that organising faculty, which is needed by the director of every great establishment, and was not content unless he tried to do everything himself, with results that will too easily suggest themselves to the practical librarian. He did not belong to that engineering and mechanical school of librarians, which forms so marked a feature in the more recent development of library work on both sides of the Atlantic. As was not unnatural, and not unfitting in a university librarian, his sympathies were rather with the patient and persevering scholar than with the general reader, or the casual enquirer for the last new book. Many of his most time-consuming researches were undertaken from the desire to assist such scholars, and were no doubt justified to himself by the proposition he laid down to us at Cambridge, that the primary duty of the librarian is to save the time of those who seek his services. Yet we cannot doubt that such researches were infinitely delightful to him, and that he must have been glad to seek relief in them from that constant pressure of business detail and sense of responsibility, which are to the born scholar and student of all men the most irksome. There is ample evidence that Bradshaw only too deeply realized this inherent incompatibility between the work he loved, and the work he had to do. In 1877, the feeling went so far that, for some time, he thought seriously of giving up the librarianship. As he wrote to a friend: "I do feel two things most strongly: (1) that the time is such that the University ought to have for its library a better administrator than I could ever be, one who has the power of dealing with *men;* and (2) that I owe to the University to produce some of the many results which their endowment of me in past years has enabled me nearly to work out, but which I see not the slightest prospect of working out while I remain in office." In a few months, however, the feeling appears to have passed away, and he writes to another friend: "I am beginning to feel that it would be singularly foolish to give up at my age what is really and must be my life's work, for what would be at best but *dilettante* work." And so he writes to Mommsen nine years later: "My primary duty as a librarian is, of course, rather to help scholars in their work to the best of my power, than to pursue any favourite investigation of my own." It may, perhaps, be questioned whether the loss to bibliography was not greater than the gain to the library, from the conscientious continuance to endeavour to perform duties which others might have performed as well as he; while nothing can compensate for all that we have lost in that wealth of knowledge of manuscripts and early books which has now passed away, without leaving any adequate record of itself for our instruction and that of our successors. Ambition, the last infirmity but the most effectual spur of noble minds, does not appear to have been one of Bradshaw's characteristics, and would perhaps have been

incompatible with what Mr. Grant calls "his shy and retiring nature." Yet even the shyest and most retiring scholar would fain connect his name, at least after his decease, with some substantial and enduring work of scholarship. The thought must sometimes have occured to Henry Bradshaw, that he who had accumulated such stores of knowledge, and had ministered so freely from them to the work of others, would leave behind him, as the result of a life's devotion to research, but a few specimens of his own consummate workmanship, and a mass of scattered fragments, glistening pearls, to which the thread that should have strung them together is now evermore denied. Some such reflection may have held his mind, as he wrote upon the notes he sent to Mr. Madan only ten days before his death: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor desire, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave, whither thou goest!"

Though the fame of Bradshaw's genius and acquirements had in no long time spread far beyond the limits of the University, he always remained strongly averse to anything like publicity or prominence. Thus in November, 1876, when arrangements were being made to organize the Caxton Celebration of the following year, he declined to join the committee, though, as Mr. Blades put it, in making the request, "it will be incomplete without the presence of the chief apostle of palæotypography." He took, however, great interest in the Celebration. Much the same thing, no doubt, explains his attitude to the International Conference of Librarians in 1877. It was, clearly, no feeling of dissent from the general idea, which led him to write to Nicholson, when he first broached his proposal: "I shall be very glad to take part in your conference, and do what I can and learn what I can; but I had very much rather not be a Vice-president or anything of the kind.[1]" And again he wrote, July 28, 1877: "The programme which you have circulated of the proposed proceedings has given me the liveliest satisfaction, and I look forward with great pleasure to the printed reports of the conference." We now know, however, that he had just passed through a time of mental struggle, in which he thought seriously of giving up his post, and this may, perhaps, explain why he did not attend the conference, but, as Mr. Prothero puts it, "went gloss-hunting instead."[2] At the conclusion of the Conference the Library Association of the United Kingdom was formally established, and Henry Bradshaw became one of our earliest life-members.

In the year 1880, the Association, which had already visited Oxford, was anxious to hold a meeting at Cambridge. Bradshaw, however, expressed a very strong desire to attend a meeting of the Association elsewhere before undertaking to welcome a gathering of its members to Cambridge. The Cambridge meeting was accordingly postponed for a year, and the meeting of 1881 was held in London, under the presidency of His Honour Judge Russell, Q.C., who was elected to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Coxe in July. Mr. Bradshaw was present on the first morning, but took a seat against the wall at the lower end of the room. On the second day, however, his reserve had melted away, and he came up to the secretaries' table, where he sat busily engaged with paper and pencil, taking an eager interest in the proceedings. He took a very considerable share in the discussions on our cataloguing rules and on the revision of the constitution. It was a somewhat critical period in our history (as will be more freely told by our future historian), and I am sure that those who remember the circumstances will agree with me that Bradshaw played a very useful and important

[1] See Nicholson's letter to the *Times*, 14 February 1877. [2] Memoir, p. 235.

part, and that his intervention did much to preserve the harmony and solidarity of the Association. He sat next to me, and I shall never forget his more than kindness, when in the crisis of the discussion the atmosphere became somewhat electric. At the concluding meeting he was duly elected President, and proposed the vote of thanks to the Treasurer and Benchers of Gray's Inn, and also the usual vote to our officers. There could be no doubt that he was pleased with his experience, and that he returned to Cambridge a devoted member of the Association.

The local preparations for the Cambridge meeting began in good time, and, as I attended some of the committee meetings, I saw more of Bradshaw, who showed extreme anxiety to make the meeting a success. On one of my visits there were lying on his table some numbers of our MONTHLY NOTES—the humbler predecessor of the CHRONICLE—just received, to replace his own copies, which had passed into the Library. "Ah!", he said, pointing to them with a smile, "I always call them the *tragedy* numbers," a reference, which it must be left to our future historian to explain. He was, perhaps, most anxious to fix the meeting at a date when he might take as many people into college as might be, and he would not be satisfied until this arrangement was made. He himself invited about 35 members to stay with him in King's for the meeting, while a good many members were entertained by other colleges. We are in the habit of saying that each of our meetings has been more successful than any before it, but I am sure it will be admitted by all who were present that no meeting yet has eclipsed that of Cambridge for heartiness and enjoyableness. Bradshaw occupied the chair throughout the three days, and by his tact and ability as president and his geniality and thoughtfulness as a host, charmed everybody. His preparations for the meeting were made with great pains. One of the letters he wrote me during the period of preparation may serve to show that he was no mere ornamental president, as I have heard it suggested, but felt a deep and genuine interest in the affairs of the Association:

King's College, Cambridge, 2 September, 1882.

My dear Thomas,

I have been unable to write the last day or two, and I feel quite ashamed to be putting so much upon you, and taking you away from your own work. Everything seems pretty straight now. If you come down in the middle of the day on Monday, you need not allow yourself to be troubled more than need be. You cannot possibly be charged with fussiness, as you suggest; but the very fact of your presence here will be a relief, as it will give me the confidence that if any difficulty should arise you will be at hand to solve it. I have had no particle of worry or annoyance throughout, and this is mainly owing to my absolute confidence in your ready help...

Your suggestion of referring ————'s proposal to a committee, who can report soberly and at leisure by or before Friday morning, seems to me undoubtedly the right thing. Above all, let us have no appearance of silencing people, as we had last time.

Nicholson has left Oxford for London. You will see him on Monday certainly. Will you kindly tell him I hope he will come down in time for dinner on Monday.

I ought to have written to him a day or two ago, but I was called away into Nottinghamshire and could not do so.

Ever yours sincerely,
Henry Bradshaw.

He was not content with delivering an excellent Presidential address, but he prepared, as an appendix to it, a careful and valuable "Account of the Organization of the Cambridge University Library," a "Note on Local Libraries considered as Museums of Local Authorship and Printing," and "A Word on Size-Notation as distinguished from Form-Notation.[1]" He was very anxious to arrange an

[1] All printed in our *Cambridge Transactions*.

exhibition of English Bindings, and to have read a paper on the subject, but found that the demands upon his time rendered this impossible. On the first evening Mr. Bradshaw received the members in the Combination Room at King's College, and on the third day he was entertained at dinner by the members, Mr. Henry Stevens occupying the chair. But not the least valuable part of Mr. Bradshaw's work as President was done during the intervals of the public sittings, at council meetings, in the less formal meetings of committees, and in conversation with individual members. Nothing could be more delightful than the diplomatic skill with which he brought agreement out of variance. We may quote from Mr. Prothero's book his own frank and charming account of the meeting, written to a friend:

"I only wish you could have seen us at our work. I had five and twenty guests of my own in college, and I had council meetings and committee meetings in abundance, besides taking the chair at all the general meetings. But instead of knocking me up as most people thought it would do, it has had the effect of a complete holiday, and I feel really better than I have for years past. Every single thing went well, and the tragedies which were expected to come off and mar the pleasure of the meeting, every one melted away and ended in stronger feelings of union and friendship than could have been believed. Committees which were composed of irreconcileables (to each other), so that no report seemed possible, ended in satisfactory reports in which people were unanimously agreed, by people being brought to understand each other, instead of being allowed to succeed in *getting round* each other. I never experienced such pleasure as I did in the sense of power in controlling these opposing forces, especially at the general meetings, and in doing so by uniformly taking every one at his best, and, ignoring anything he might say which tended towards the irreconcileable. There had been a great deal of ill feeling for a year or two past, and by a simple determination that it should be worked out of the system (as the doctors say) it *went*, to the infinite satisfaction of all. It has made me extremely happy."

Again to another friend he wrote:

"Work seems to increase upon me daily, but my librarians' meeting did me an enormous amount of good. It was like a three or four weeks' holiday in the Alps—the entire change and absence of a jar, not a shadow of a thing going wrong. I had not the face to run away after the meeting, I felt so completely set up by it; so I remained here, and did a quantity of necessary work."

That Bradshaw's feelings about the meetings were thoroughly shared by every member present, no one could doubt who witnessed the affecting scene in the hall of King's College, when Bradshaw rose to reply to the vote of thanks to him as President. As the official record reads: "When the long-continued applause allowed him to be heard, the President said that silence was the best form of thanks he could give them. The more words he said, the more he should diminish the effect of the strong feeling of pleasure it had been to him to meet them. In spite of the work which it had entailed upon him, which had been considerable, it had been the most perfect holiday to him he had ever enjoyed in his life."

We must abbreviate the rest of the story of Bradshaw's participation in our work. Constant to the connexion he had formed, I find on reference to our Minutes that he attended altogether fourteen Council meetings, and it must be remembered that an attendance in London meant a night journey back to Cambridge. He attended our Liverpool meeting in 1883, and took a considerable share in the proceedings. He made an excellent speech at the dinner given by the Mayor, and at the concluding meeting, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Cowell for his services as Local Secretary, said that "the working and management of the Liverpool Public Library had been seen and appreciated by them. He himself had probably more to learn than any of them, because, as he observed the other night [at the dinner], it was not merely antiquity that was essential in a library, but energy and vitality." The gentleman with whom he

stayed reports that: "He was in excellent spirits, and used to give us, with almost boyish pleasure, accounts of what he had done and said in the course of the day."

The meeting of the Association at Dublin in the following year was, of course, an irresistible temptation to him, and he undertook a paper on "the special hobby of all his hobbies"—Printing in Ireland. Dublin was one of our most delightful meetings—as hearty and enthusiastic, and even more brilliant and distinguished than any. When Henry Bradshaw made his first appearance at the sittings, the whole meeting rose and received him with prolonged applause. He took part in the discussion upon the paper read by Lord Charles Bruce, M.P., on "The Library at Althorp." Earl Spencer, who was then Lord-Lieutenant, attended to hear this paper, and Mr. Bradshaw gracefully observed that "what Lord Spencer did was practically to give his library to the world, but in such a manner that its treasures were not hurt or lost." One of the crowning pleasures of the meeting came when Bradshaw, as the official record, alas, unfaithfully! reports, "*read* his paper on Printing in Ireland." Unfortunately his notes were few, and he really lectured on the subject, untrammelled by manuscript or note, to an entranced and delighted audience. It would have fired a man with less of Irish ichor in his veins than Bradshaw, thus to talk on such a subject to such an audience in the very home of Irish learning. Mr. Prothero gives us his own account of it from a letter to a friend:

> The meeting of the Library Association has been very pleasant. . . . I got over my paper better than I expected. I had put down on a bit of paper the order in which I wanted to take the several matters, and of course I had thought it out; but it appears that I went on for an hour and a quarter without a break. There was no clock to warn one, and they were all perfectly attentive. I was amused to read in one of the papers next morning, that a Mr. Henry Bradshaw from Cambridge, delivered *a most engaging address* on the subject of Printing in Ireland, etc. It was very amusing, and the people are coming to me now, hour by hour, to ask questions, and to see how they can help in working the matter out.

It is one of the things which one thinks of with unspeakable regret, that it occurred to nobody to suggest that such a paper should not have been left to the casual mercies of the ordinary newspaper reporters, who in this case unfortunately were content with a passing compliment, to the great loss of our transactions and of bibliography. I still more bitterly reproach myself that measures were not taken to secure a shorthand report of the paper Mr. Bradshaw read, at our monthly meeting of May, 1885, on "Early Printed Bibles." I asked him to write this paper, when I was at Cambridge in March, and he promptly agreed, observing that he was anxious to say some things about the Mazarine Bible in particular, which he had never yet said to anybody. Unhappily this paper also was not put into writing, but was spoken from a few notes and some elaborate tables of his own construction. We have but a meagre and inadequate report of his address, and I fear there is a very slender hope that more can be retrieved from his manuscripts. It is passing sad that our record of Bradshaw's services to the Association must end with this confession of what may well appear, now that we have lost him, an inexcusable neglect.

In the very month in which he read this paper to us, he received a severe blow in the death of his eldest sister, whose house "had been for years a second home to him," and, from that time, the consciousness of failing health seems, from time to time, to have shown itself in too prophetic forebodings of his end. His work was cheered in the autumn of the year by the visit to Cambridge of Theodor Mommsen, who came to work on the manuscripts of Gildas, in which Bradshaw had long been interested. He writes of Mommsen: "He has completely won my heart, and it is as good as a month's

holiday to see his method of working." What Mommsen thought of Bradshaw may well stand as a final judgment upon his intellectual personality: "Professor Mommsen told Prof. Robertson Smith that he had been more impressed by Henry Bradshaw than by any other man he had met in England, and that he longed for a short-hand writer, to take down the information which he poured forth on subjects of common interest." Even Henry Bradshaw's most admiring friends may well be satisfied with such a tribute from the ablest and learnedest of living scholars!

Of his amiable character, his quaint sayings and pleasant ways, I have left myself no room to speak. They are described by Mr. Prothero with sympathetic fulness and fidelity. Leading the cloistered life of a college don, his affectionate nature flowed out towards his fellows, and especially to younger men around him, and found naïve expression in his way of putting his arm about a companion's shoulder as they walked, or of playing with his hand. It found more substantial expression in deeds of goodwill to individuals and to the university. This memoir is a record of many acts of generosity (and there were doubtless many more), which left Bradshaw poor in worldly wealth, but rich in the weal and gratitude of those he benefited. No nobler, purer, kindlier spirit has ever passed into those supernal climes, where one would fain imagine him slowly pacing their meads of asphodel, now holding discourse with the librarians of the Cæsars and the Ptolemies, and anon exchanging thoughts with the inventors and perfectors of that 'divine' art, which the ancients never knew, and the mysteries of whose origin he gave his life up to elucidate. And he has left many a one who loved him well, still thinking of him with fond regret—

Tendentemque manus ripae ulterioris amore!

Although no great accomplished work, such as we would all fain desire! remains to immortalize his name, at least the fragments from his table will be gathered up and treasured; and the story of his life may help to teach the lesson of thoroughness and perfection—a lesson sorely needed in an age when publishers and writers conspire to flood the world with hasty and imperfect work, only to add to the toils of the already overburdened cataloguer and librarian. It is proposed to place a bust of him, who was so long its presiding genius, in the University Library,[1] where his grave and reverend features will long survey with open but unseeing eyes the scene of so many labours and so many joys. And meantime, in the faithful and affectionate work of Mr. Prothero, for whose able performance of his task of love we all owe him a deep debt of gratitude, we have an abiding memorial of one who was sanctified to the dearest and loftiest of all services—the service of books, and the record of whose work will be studied by librarians and bibliographers, as long as books are read and libraries endure.

Mr. Prothero has added to his memoir a careful bibliographical appendix, dealing with the published work of Bradshaw. He has moreover given a *facsimile* of his characteristic handwriting, which by its quaint squareness and regularity almost reminds one of a blackletter MS.; and finally has prefixed to the volume a portrait of its subject, from the magic graver of his friend Professor Herkomer. This brief sketch of his life and work may fitly conclude in words written down by Henry Bradshaw himself not many hours before he passed away: *Quasi morientes et ecce vivimus!*[2]

E. C. T.

[1] For an account of the meeting to consider the form of memorial, see the *Cambridge University Reporter*, March 23, 1886. [2] 2 Cor. vi. 9.

'AS OTHERS SEE US': AN AMERICAN COMMENT ON THE GLASGOW MEETING.

WE think that it may be desirable to reproduce from the *Library Journal* the following notes by the Rev. E. C. Richardson on his experiences and observations at our Glasgow Meeting, to which he was accredited as a delegate of the American Library Association. Mr. Richardson writes:—

Hartford, September 26th, 1888.

I was keenly interested in the L. A. U. K. Meeting. It is quite true that there is more of the bibliographical and less of the practical than with us, and there is far less of the enthusiasm and life which characterize our meetings, but it is a live and dignified affair and hugely interesting to one who is trying to get an idea of the forces at work for the achievement of library interests. There seems to be less of definite purpose with them. I am impressed always at the A. L. A. with the fact that pretty much every one has come intending to get and test ideas and hear something of benefit to his library to put in practice on his return. It seemed to me much the difference between a man sitting down before his open fire with a good volume of essays, and the same man at work in his laboratory intent on making a discovery—but I like the fire and essays. With us I feel more keenly from year to year the danger of not keeping before the newer librarians the need of proper bibliographical knowledge—of editions, history of printing, etc., etc. We are in danger of losing it in our practical passion for index-bibliography, and the loss will be a fatal one for the *quality* of our libraries. The L. A. U. K. certainly fosters this side and to excess. The librarians you know, and they are a fine lot—as librarians ought to be—and quite ready and equal, I should think, to a more aggressive method. There is a latent spirit of go among them, somewhat fettered still by the traditional association method which prevails in the learned societies. There is a certain intelligent energy which seems to make a live librarian peculiarly live.

The meeting of the L. A. U. K. for this year was large, but there were many absences of those best known to us in America—Garnett, Nicholson, etc. It was held at Glasgow, and the librarians were treated royally well. Glasgow is famous for its hospitality. The details of the meeting were well managed. It seemed odd to have only one session a day. The rest of the time was given up to excursions, etc., of which there were six: visit to the Cathedral, public reception, visit to University, to the Exhibition, to Ayr, including public dinner at the Town Hall, and an excursion down the Clyde.

The proceedings were opened by a very entertaining address by the President Of the fourteen papers which followed, five were strictly bibliographical in interest, five had reference to the support of libraries by rating, including an account of the unsuccessful attempt to apply the Public Libraries Act in Glasgow. There were but two papers on our favourite subject of library methods—one on subject headings in dictionary catalogues, and one on methods of showing current numbers of periodicals, a neat system of Barrett, of the Mitchell Library. This latter, however, was not read.

The papers averaged much too long—a fault not confined to the L. A. U. K., but worse even than with us.

The papers in general were well written, with some regard for style—a hint for the A. L. A. I am more than ever convinced that ten and twenty minute papers, in which it is expected that the case of an hour's lecture shall be put, are the thing.

I was impressed with the fact that very many of the librarians were well posted on the library movement in America—as well posted as ours are on English, a circumstance which I found in no other class of people among various kinds I met this summer. The President alluded to America pleasantly in his address, as the "chosen land of libraries, where Mr. Justin Winsor and his colleagues esteem nothing done, while there remains anything undone." Dr. Poole would have been gratified, if he could have heard the chorus of "hear! hear!" when his "valuable Index" was mentioned, and as for Professor Dewey, everybody seemed to know him, his system and his work, and President Cutter likewise. Mr. Mullins paid a very warm and pleasantly expressed tribute to American librarians in general, in proposing the toast "American librarians and libraries."

Your representative was treated with every conceivable kindness, and carried away a very lively sense of the good fellowship of British librarians. It was a matter of great regret that the head of your delegation, Professor Davis, whose genial and dignified personality and ability to put a thing well in speaking make him peculiarly suited as a representative, was obliged to return before the meeting.

It was voted to hold the next meeting in *Paris*, if arrangements can be made. There ought to be a good many American librarians over next year to the Exposition. Cannot we approximate an International?

I was surprized to learn from Mr. Thomas of the very small number of subscriptions to the *Chronicle* among American librarians. We are supposed to be nothing if not cosmopolitan, and I think it a real duty for us to keep well posted on what our neighbours do.

I am really very much chagrined not to be able to see you now. I would like to tell of the Library Bureau at Paris, and some of the devices I saw in the provinces. There is an astonishing waking up in France. ERNEST C. RICHARDSON.

THE FRENCH "ALBUM PALÉOGRAPHIQUE."

UNTIL within a comparatively recent period the study of palæography was confined to a small number of specialists, and could not be pursued at all satisfactorily, except by the limited class of persons who had continual command of the resources of a considerable library of manuscripts.[1] Among the difficulties in the way of a comprehensive study of manuscripts must of course be included those of distance and distribution. As every manuscript is in a certain sense an original, while our store of manuscripts is scattered over the whole of Europe, to examine the manuscripts of a particular work, or a particular class, involved a corresponding outlay of time and money.

It is easy to understand, therefore, why the study of palæography was necessarily in the hands of specialists. But this state of things has been altered by the art of photography, which has put it in the power of students to secure faithful reproductions of manuscripts for complete and exhaustive home-study. It is true that there were valuable collections of fac-similes before photography, such as those in the *De re diplomatica* of Mabillon, the *Nouveau traité de Diplomatique* of the Benedictines, and the

[1] For a review of the palæographical publications of the last twenty-five years, see Mr. Hessels' valuable articles in the *Academy*, vol. xxvi, 184 ff., 221 ff., 237 ff. (1884).

Paléographie Universelle of Silvestre. But there is all the difference in the world between the reproductions of lithography and those of the camera. In the one case we have a reproduction dependent for its value on the skill and accuracy of the facsimilist; in the other, the art of the photographer may be said to have passed beyond the region of experiment and to be now capable of producing an exact copy of the original document, in which it is made to speak for itself and not by an interpreter. The importance of this to the critical student is unspeakable. He is no longer at the mercy of a reporter or editor, without the power of checking or verifying the report submitted; but with a photographic copy of the original before him, he can test the extension of a doubtful or equivocal abbreviation, or verify the probability of a new reading or conjecture in the traces of a copyist's correction. The art of photographic reproduction was not perfected at once, and many of the earlier reproductions leave a good deal to be desired. Further improvements will no doubt be made, and as the demand for such reproductions increases, it will be possible to supply them at a cheaper rate. For it must be admitted that these reproductions are expensive, and hence, for the most part, they have as yet been limited to specimens.

A more comprehensive and convenient body of specimens it is impossible to desire, so far as French MSS. are concerned, than the *Album Paléographique*, which has recently been issued by the Maison Quantin, in Paris, and which may be said to indicate the present high water mark of the art of photographic reproduction in matters of palæography.

The *Album* consists of a collection of fifty large plates, containing specimens of more than that number of important documents relating to the national history and literature of France. Each of the plates is accompanied by an explanatory notice, written by a member of the *École des Chartes*, and a general Introduction has been furnished by M. Léopold Delisle, the learned head of the *Bibliothèque Nationale*, in which that distinguished palæographer briefly reviews the work that has been accomplished in France and other countries in the reproduction of important literary and historical documents by the processes of photography. It is satisfactory to note how large a portion of this work has been done in our own country, and that M. Delisle bears testimony to the "active and enlightened" services in this direction of Dr. Bond and Mr. Thompson.

The notices accompanying the plates have been written by MM. L. Delisle, U. Robert, H. Omont, J. Havet, Jules Tardif, R. de Lasteyrie, A. Giry, E. Berger, G. Raynaud, N. Valois, S. Luce, A. Molinier, P. Guilhiermos, and E. Bougenot, and supply all the palæographical, literary and historical information requisite for the study and appreciation of the reproductions. They include, moreover, typographical extensions of the portions of the manuscripts reproduced, so that everything has been done to lighten and assist the student's labours.

The documents reproduced in the *Album* are arranged in chronological order and extend from the 6th to the 17th century, representing all the varieties of writing employed in France during this period, including the Roman capital, the Carlovingian capital, the uncial, the semi-uncial, and the minuscule or cursive hand.

The reproductions begin with the famous MS. of Prudentius, written in the 5th or 6th century, and in Roman capitals. A number of plates exhibit specimens of the different handwritings in use until the time of Charlemagne, and some splendid examples show to what a pitch of artistic excellence caligraphy had then attained.

Among the many specimens of wonderful writing exhibited in this collection, nothing, perhaps, is more wonderful than the beautiful execution of the Bible of Theodulfe, Bishop of Orleans from 788 to 821. This is written in a minute and exquisitely clear Caroline minuscule, and the copy from which the specimen is taken seems to be the one which the Bishop gave to his Cathedral Church.

The manuscripts of the Capetian epoch, as being better known, are more sparingly illustrated, but amongst those included are some exquisite specimens of artistic work, such as the Psalter of St. Louis. Among the illuminated MSS. reproduced besides this Psalter are a curious volume of Bible allegories dating from the 13th century, the "très belle et très notable bible en latin et en François," which was illuminated in 1401 by Polequin et Tanequin Manul for Philip the Bold of Burgundy, and the beautiful MS. of the *Miracles de Notre Dame*, belonging to the 15th century. Of the second part of this compilation two copies are known, both of which belonged originally to the library of the Dukes of Burgundy, though one has now found its way into the Bodleian library.

Among curious monuments of philology is the Graeco-Latin glossary of Laon belonging to the 9th century. Plate 35 consists of four pages from the extremely interesting sketch-book of the architect Villard de Honnecurt, of the 14th century, which illustrates how the mediæval ideas of design were based upon geometrical principles. There are, of course, a considerable number of charters and other diplomatic documents, beginning with a grant of Childebert III. in 695, and including instruments of Charlemagne, Hugh Capet, and other famous monarchs. A page is given from the first volume of the decisions of the old Parliament of Paris, a series of records which extend to 164 volumes, the first four of which are known under the name of *Olim* and date back to the year 1256.

Then we come to the period when manuscript was superseded by print, and the remaining specimens are given chiefly for their interest as documents of the national history. They include the letters patent by which Francis I. declared the Duchy of Burgundy to be united to the throne of France, in 1532; the secret despatch written by Admiral Coligny, on the lining of a doublet, in 1562; the Edict of Nantes in 1598, and its Revocation in 1685; and the celebrated Declaration of the Gallican clergy in 1682, drawn up by Bossuet; with other documents of special interest to the student of French history. With one or two exceptions, all the documents reproduced are contained in the *Archives Nationales* and the *Bibliothèque Nationale.* One of these exceptions is an interesting specimen of a collection of materials relating to the History of St. Martin, which, though written at Tours in the middle of the ninth century and presenting an authentic example of the work done by Alcuin's pupils there, is now preserved at Quedlinburg. In the same way use is made of the resources of the Bodleian to bring into comparison with the Paris MS. of the *Miracles of Notre Dame* a page from a similar MS., which, though undoubtedly executed about the same time and from the same model, though possibly by a different hand, has, in the vicissitudes of fortune, been separated from its fellow, and has found a peaceful resting place under the quaint old roof of the Bodleian.

The plates and text are issued in a portfolio, and it illustrates the all but inevitable inconvenience of this mode of publication and the necessity of careful collation, that in the copy which we owe to the courtesy of the Maison Quantin there is no text supplied to plate 30, while that belonging to plate 50 is furnished in duplicate.

SOME RECENT BOOKS.[1]

THE account of the Duke of Beaufort's progress through Wales in 1684, as Lord President of the Council there and Lord Warden of the Marches, has been very admirably reproduced in photo-lithography from the original MS. of Thomas Dineley, which is in the possession of the present Duke. The book was privately printed in 1864 with a limited number of woodcuts, reproducing the very numerous pen and ink sketches, which form an important feature of the MS. Mr. R W. Banks contributes a preface, in which he gives some account of Dineley or Dingley. The execution of the work reflects very great credit upon its printers, Messrs. Blades, East and Blades.

We are glad to note that Victor Hehn's interesting and valuable book on the wanderings of plants and animals from their Asian homes into our own continent has at last found an English translator. We have not discovered what Mr. Stallybrass has contributed to the volume to justify his bracketing his name on the cover with the author's as "Hehn and Stallybrass," and he has omitted far too many of the learned notes of the original, as being too good, we suppose, for what he somewhat superciliously calls "the common reader." Nevertheless, it is a book which, for its own merits and deservings, should be in every library.

Of course, Professor Skeat was just the right person to give us an annotated edition of the "Minor Poems" of Chaucer, which have been unduly neglected by editors. The book is very well printed and handsomely got up.

The true standard by which to try such a comprehensive and ambitious "attempt" as Professor Henry Morley's "English Writers" is to ask how far it satisfies the requirements of specialists. So far as Richard de Bury is concerned, who occupies a considerable space in the fourth volume, the verdict can hardly be very favourable. The facts of the Bishop's life are not too accurately stated, and when Professor Morley undertakes to give a summary of his book, "which ascribes to it no "turn of thought or phrase that is not to be found in the original," he has surely forgotten that his abstract has obviously been made from Inglis's imperfect translation, and not from the Latin original. His bibliographical note on p. 55 is exceedingly poor.

It seems to be impossible to say when we shall have an adequate edition of Sir John Maundeville. Mr. Ashton's reprint is extremely disappointing. Instead of going to the best manuscripts, he has based his edition upon a 1568 reprint of Pynson's text. This edition had a good many quaint woodcuts, the reproduction of which

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[1] The account of the official progress of His Grace, Henry, the first Duke of Beaufort through Wales in 1684... With preface by Richard W. Banks. London: Blades, East and Blades, 1888. 4to, pp. 23. clxv. [21]. Price 2 guineas.

The Wanderings of Plants and Animals from their first Home. By Victor Hehn. Edited by James Steven Stallybrass. London: Sonnenschein & Co., 1888. 8vo, pp. 523. Price 7s. 6d.

Clarendon Press Series. Chaucer: The Minor Poems. Edited by the Rev. Walter W. Skeat. Oxford, 1888. 8vo, pp. lxxxvi. 462. Price 12s. 6d.

English Writers: an attempt towards a history of English Literature. By Henry Morley. IV. The Fourteenth Century. London: Cassell, 1889. 8vo, pp. viii. 362. Price 5s.

The Voiage and Travayle of Sir John Maundeville Knight... By John Ashton. London: Pickering and Chatto, 1887. 8vo, pp. xxiv. 289. Price 10s. 6d.

The Principles of the Art of Conversation, a social essay. By J. P. Mahaffy. Second edition, revised and enlarged. London: Macmillan, 1888. 8vo, pp. xxiii. 180. Price 4s. 6d.

Leaves of Life. By E. Nesbit. London: Longmans, 1888. 8vo, pp. x. 185. Price 5s.

A Publisher's Playground. London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1888. 16mo, pp. viii. 64. Price 3s. 6d.

seems to be Mr. Ashton's principal object. He is obviously devoid of the scholarship necessary for an editor of Maundeville, and his discussion of Maundeville's personality and the history of the work shows a really shocking ignorance of the views put forward with so much force and learning by such authorities as Mr. Nicholson and Col. Yule. The result is a book which, however creditable it may be to the printer, is anything but a credit to English scholarship and bibliography.

No one who has had the pleasure of conversing with Professor Mahaffy can have failed to discover that he is a most successful practitioner of the art. Whether from this theoretical discussion of its principles, the practice of the art is to be acquired or improved, is certainly an experiment worth trying, and those who make it will at least have the pleasure of reading a clever and entertaining little book.

Hazell's "Annual" for 1889 is the slightly changed title of a familiar and trusty friend. The book gets better every year, and is a marvel of cheapness and usefulness.

Miss Nesbit has followed up her "Lays and Legends," which we are glad to notice has reached the honour of a second edition, with a volume entitled "Leaves of Life." To a masculine energy of passion and imagination Miss Nesbit unites a feminine felicity of sentiment, which have secured her an admitted place among the scanty choir of contemporary singers, whose fame even our busy modern world will not willingly let die.

In his introductory verses, the author of "A Publisher's Play-ground" likens himself to an innkeeper on the road to Parnassus, an "impious clown," who borrows "a patron's steed" and rides for the sacred hill on his own account. The temptation to a publisher to take advantage of his "patrons" may have been irresistible, but he was hardly fortunate in the choice of his "borrowed Pegasus." The poor creature limps terribly, and his rhymes are almost worse than his paces. In a brief jolt of sixty pages, the luckless pair stumble pretty often, with such bone-shaking results as "lingo—akimbo"; "scorning—dawning"; "nativity—cupidity"; "limbs—sings"; "forlorn—gone"; "meal—real"; "arm—calm"; "Hades—habes" (this is Latin); and "piano—'cello" (this is music)! Perhaps it would be as well in future for the publisher to let his "patrons" ride their own horses, even if he has to pay them for doing it.

PROF. DZIATZKO ON HIS CATALOGUING RULES:

A Rejoinder (see p. 166 *ante*).

I am glad of the opportunity afforded by the Editor to thank my colleague, Dr. R. Garnett most heartily for the thorough and instructive discussion which he has bestowed upon my Breslau Code of Rules. I hope to make careful use of his article in the additions to that Code, which I propose to publish before long, and which will contain many corrections of the earlier rules, as well as a defence of some of them.

Here I should only like to observe (see p. 168) that in accordance with my general standpoint, I should propose to extend or modify § 16 to this extent that where, in a compound name, a separate part of it has become the common form, this is to be used without regard to the question whether it stands at the beginning of the compound: and so Voltaire, not Arouet.

As to 4: The rule I have laid down as to pseudonyms has this circumstance to recommend it, that the writings of a single author are thus brought together and may

be seen at a glance, while according to the practice of the British Museum in some cases even different editions of the same book occur under different headings.

As to 6: For assistance in the difficulty of tracing small anonymous works of a biographical character, which are entered under the name of the substantive that happens to occur at the beginning of the title, I look to that part of the subject-catalogue which is arranged by the names of the persons treated of, in the section Biography, or to the alphabetical *repertorium* of subject-headings, which I have recommended on p. iii.

As to 8: I too now agree as to the desirability of supplementing the Breslau card-catalogue by the cross-references from translators, editors, etc., as urged by Dr. R. Garnett, and I would amend the Code of Rules accordingly. In the Gottingen card-catalogue, which has been now some years in progress, these cross-references are to be found.

As to 11: According to § 175 ff. and 181 ff. of my code, *editions* (Bearbeitungen) are distinguished from *translations*. The rule which is impeached (§ 179), applies only to the former, and it is only in this sense that the example is to be taken, by which Vitae Patrum and Vite de' Padri are entered in different places in the catalogue.

Finally, I should like to point out that many of the variations referred to are explained by the circumstance that the Museum catalogue is a catalogue in volumes (Bandkatalog), and that changes in the alphabetical arrangements are, as far as possible, avoided. In a card-catalogue, on the contrary, for which my Code was constructed, improvements in the choice of the heading and the arrangement may continually be made without difficulty, as where, for instance, the author of an anonymous work, or the real name of an anonymous author, is definitely ascertained, or a writer has permanently changed his name, and so on.

DR. KARL DZIATZKO.

Verse.

THE ATTIC BOOKWORM.

Here in this scanty plot of space,
  Which hardly I may call my own,
My books and I have found a place,
  Nor envy purple kings their throne.

The whole wide world of thought is ours,
  All that hath been, will be, and is;
We measure centuries by hours,
  And sound the depths of woe and bliss.

Here mighty emperors hold their court,
  And thinkers count up rights and wrongs;
Here brilliant jesters make us sport,
  And poets sing their sweetest songs.

Poor as I am in worldly gear,
  They wait upon my beck and call;
All speak to me, when I would hear—
  Sole master of the festival.

For me the bounds of space and time
  Are not; for wealth I do not call:
All that is best in prose or rhyme
  Is mine—within this attic wall!

The Library Chronicle.

The publication of the LIBRARY CHRONICLE *is for the present discontinued. Subscriptions for complete sets of the* LIBRARY CHRONICLE, *in a neat Half Roxburghe Binding, at* 10*s. per volume, or* £2 10*s. for the five volumes, will be received by Messrs. J. Davy & Sons,* 137, *Long Acre, W.C., from whom also single numbers may be obtained.*

The Library Association cannot be responsible for the views expressed by the contributors to the CHRONICLE.

The Library Association.

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING.

The December Monthly Meeting was held at Gray's Inn Library on Monday, Dec. 10, Mr. Chancellor Christie, V.P., in the chair.

Professor Lund, of Owens College, Victoria University, and Mr. William Durie, of Gray's Inn, were elected Members.

It was resolved that in future the Monthly Meetings be held on the *second* Monday of the Month.

The following papers were read: "An Account of Proposals made nearly two Centuries ago to found Public Libraries," by Mr. William Blades; and "American Books with English Title-pages," by Mr. Joseph Gilburt.

After a discussion, votes of thanks were passed to the writers of the Papers.

The Meeting then adjourned.

THE Council have filled up the vacancy in the Presidency of the Association by the election of Mr. Chancellor Christie, V.P.

FROST FUND.

THE following further subscriptions have been received for this fund: Mr. Chancellor Christie £1; Prof. W. P. Dickson 10s.; Mr. James Richardson £1.

Library Notes and News.

ALLOA.—The new Town Hall and Free Library presented to Alloa by Mr. Thomson Paton, at a cost of £30,000, were handed over to the Corporation at a public meeting on Dec. 14th. An address of thanks in a silver casket was then handed by the chief magistrate to Mr. Paton.

BARKING.—A poll on the question of adopting the Libraries Acts was taken on Nov. 27, when the votes were For, 921; Against, 241; majority for, 680. Barking is the only town in Essex which has yet adopted the Acts, and is to be congratulated on having thus put itself ahead of Chelmsford.

BOOTLE.—We have received the programme of the Second Season of the Free Public Library and Museum Free Lectures, and also of a series of Addresses to be delivered in the Museum. The choice of subjects is excellent.

BRIGHTON.—Mr. D. Hack has promised £1,000 towards the Lending Library scheme, and over £1,000 is promised from other sources.

CARDIFF.—The Library Committee propose to spend £150 a year in maintaining a system of branch libraries. It is intended, if possible, to arrange for the use of Board Schools.

EDINBURGH.—The Solicitors before the Supreme Courts of Scotland are building a new and spacious Reading Room, Library, and Hall, immediately behind the Parliament House, with which their buildings will be connected by a bridge. The new buildings occupy the site of the old Meal Market in the Cowgate, and for the purpose of their erection several old houses have been pulled down. The new Reading Room will measure 30 ft. by 22 ft., and the new Library 68 ft. by 48 ft. There will be storage for nearly 70,000 volumes. Thirty model dwelling-houses and eight shops will occupy the Cowgate front of the buildings, so that the Society is doing a good work for others as well as for themselves. A fireproof floor will separate the model dwellings from the Library. Strode's ventilating sunlights will be used for lighting the Library, and the Wenham lights in the Reading Room and Hall. The buildings will be heated with low pressure hot-water radiators, and the ventilation will be good. The total cost will be above £13,000, and the architect is Mr. J. B. Dunn, of Edinburgh.

GLASGOW.—Mr. William Hutton has been appointed Mr. Mason's successor at Stirling's Library, on the removal of Mr.

Mason to take the librarianship of the Free Library, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields. Mr. Mason was presented with a purse of £100 on leaving Glasgow.

GUERNSEY. — The extension of the Guille-Allès Library, now under the 'long-reaching' care of Mr. Cotgreave, was opened on Nov. 26. The library was founded by two Guernsey men, who were partners in New York for thirty years, and was named by them after their fathers. The decorations appear to be unusually elegant. The library already has over 50,000 vols. Mr. Cotgreave has issued a key to the Indicator.

HORWICH.—A new Mechanics' Institute, built by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company at a cost of £3,000 was opened on Dec. 15. The library contains 1,800 vols.

HULL.—The 113th annual meeting of the Hull Subscription Library was held on Dec. 5th. It was resolved to admit subscribers other than shareholders to the use of the library.

LEEDS.—The Leeds Public Library has received from Mrs. Louisa Hawkyard, a collection of books on phrenology and kindred subjects, collected by her husband, the late Mr. Wm. Hawkyard, who was at one time a member of the library committee. It consists of 1130 volumes, and is to be confined to the reference library.

LEITH.—The annual meeting of the Public Institute and Library was held on Nov. 21. The income was £424, and the library contains 12,000 volumes.

LIVERPOOL.—Mr. Henry Tate has promised to give £16,000 for the erection of a library building for the Liverpool University College.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—The Free Lecture series at the Bethnal Green Free Library on Nov. 22nd was opened by a concert given by the Kyrle Choir.

A descriptive article, entitled, "An East End Free Library," by G. Holden Pike, appears in the *Quiver* for October. This library is perhaps the most successful of the non-rate-supported institutions. It contains over 20,000 volumes. A larger building is much needed, and an effort is now being made to obtain one. Of the probable cost (£10,000) a tenth part has already been given by Sir James Tyler.

LONDON: BRITISH MUSEUM.—Simultaneously with the interesting Stuart Exhibition at the New Gallery, the Museum authorities have placed in the King's Library a number of show cases, containing portraits and relics of the Stuart family and MSS., books, prints and seals relating to them.

LONDON: CLERKENWELL.—The temporary premises of the Free Library at 19, Tysoe Street were opened on Nov. 20th. Captain Penton and Mr. R. M. Holborn attended. The Skinners' Company have presented a site for a permanent building.

LONDON: CORPORATION LIBRARY.—The Council have declined to consider a proposal to open the library on Sundays. The Lord Mayor, however, suggested at a recent dinner of the library committee that books might be lent out to respectable persons.

LONDON: EALING.—The new Jubilee Memorial Hall was opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales on Dec. 15th. It provides accommodation for the Local Board offices and the Free Public Library.

LONDON: HAMPSTEAD.—It is proposed to open the Public Library to all comers on Sunday evenings.

LONDON: HORNSEY. — The Hornsey School Board proposes to establish lending libraries in its schools.

LONDON: LAMBETH.—On Dec. 1st, Mr. Mundella, M.P., opened the Tate Free Library in the absence, through indisposition, of Mr. Tate, who has presented the site, which cost £1,150, and has erected a library upon it at a cost of £4,800. The Chairman, Canon Pelham, read a letter from Mr. Tate offering to give £5,000 towards a site and library for Brixton, if another £5,000 was subscribed by March 31st.

LONDON: PEOPLE'S PALACE.—In the *Athenæum* of Nov. 24, Mr. Walter Besant, Chairman of the Library Committee, made an appeal for contributions to the library of the People's Palace, which has room for 200,000 vols., but, so far, had only 8,000.

MANCHESTER.—On Nov. 26th, Mr. W. E. A. Axon read a paper to the Manchester

Branch of the Teachers' Guild on "Teachers and Libraries," a letter was read from Mr. C. W. Sutton, agreeing with Mr. Axon's views, and offering to assist in bringing the resources of the Manchester Public Libraries within the reach of the public schools.

It has been decided to postpone for a year the application to Parliament for power to make a 2d. library rate.

NANTWICH.—On Dec. 6th, Mr. Brunner, M.P., opened the Jubilee Free Library building.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Lenton Branch Lending Library has proved so popular that the hours have been extended. The stock of books at all the branches, ten in number, has recently been considerably augmented.

RATHMINES.—Rathmines township claims to be the only township in Ireland which has adopted the provisions of the Libraries Act (9 Vic., c. 40). It was established in July, 1887, and is supported on a halfpenny rate, which produces about £300. The number of vols. is 2,000.

READING.—The Mayor, Mr. G. W. Palmer, has given £100 worth of books for a Juvenile Lending Library in connexion with the Free Library.

SITTINGBOURNE.—The new Free Library was opened, with about 4,000 vols., on Dec. 10th.

SOUTH MOLTON.—The late Mechanics' Institute have offered to present to the Corporation their books and fittings, for the purpose of forming a Free Library, together with their capital, amounting to £250., and the offer was accepted on Dec. 11th by the Town Council.

WICK.—The new Free Library was opened on November 14th by Sheriff Thoms, who has presented 500 vols. Five collections have been brought together to form the library, which opens with nearly 4,000 vols.

WINSFORD.—The Jubilee Free Library at Winsford was opened on Dec. 14th. A free tea was given to 500 persons, and a public meeting was then held.

WREXHAM.—The Committee of the Welsh Eisteddfod, held at Wrexham, have given £400 out of their surplus to the Free Library, and £30 to help in forming an Art School in connexion with the library.

Though the year 1888 is not to be compared with the Jubilee year in the progress made in the adoption of the Libraries Acts, there is nevertheless some progress to be recorded. During the year the Acts have been adopted at Barking, Croydon, Glossop, Hinckley, Oldbury, and Stalybridge. On the other hand there have been unfortunate failures to convince the ratepayers at Glasgow, Llandudno, Luton, Monk Bretton, Taunton, and Tunbridge Wells, as well as in the Metropolitan districts of Marylebone, Newington, Plumstead and Woolwich.

One of the results of the Pope Commemoration at Twickenham, last year, has been to leave a balance of £17 to be handed over to the Twickenham Free Public Library, to form a permanent Popean Collection. The Committee, in their report, express their thanks to Mr. Tedder, "without whose ability and zeal their scheme could not have been carried into effect."

At Baltimore (U.S.), on Nov. 5th, the fifth branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library was opened. In January, 1882, Mr. Pratt announced his intention of presenting a library capable of holding 200,000 vols., and having four branches connected with it, and of permanently endowing the institution. Mr. Pratt has now added a fifth branch, and was present at its opening, and delivered a short address.

We have received the "Fifth Annual Report of the Chief Librarian, and Second Annual Report of the Director of the School of Library Economy," at Columbia College, New York (1888, 8vo, pp. 31). The library now numbers over 100,000 vols., and increased accommodation is needed. The Huguenot Society of America has arranged to deposit its books in the library. The bibliographical lectures, which are open to all readers, as well as to the library school, have been continued with satisfactory results. The second year of the School of Library Economy, Prof. Dewey reports, has been more successful than the first. There were 11 seniors and 22 juniors in attendance. We are pleased to notice that Prof. Dewey has been appointed State Librarian of New York.

We are somewhat surprised to see in the *Library Journal* a paragraph upon library statistics, without any voucher of authority, but bearing its own condemnation with it. Nevertheless, the paragraph has of course, as usual, gone the round of the papers without challenge or demur. The figures profess to refer to to-day, but were published about eight years ago, when we called attention to their absurdity at the monthly meeting of the Library Association, in June, 1882 (see MONTHLY NOTES, vol. iii, p. 82). These precious statistics were prepared by an Austrian, who patriotically brings out Austria as in advance of all other countries in its provision of public libraries. It is certainly curious to see these worthless figures reproduced once more by the critical and accurate editor of the *Journal*.

In "The Bodleian Library, 1882-7" (Oxford, December, 1888, 4to, pp. iv. 66), Mr. E. B. Nicholson has, by permission of the Curators of the Bodleian, published an elaborate report, which is to be continued annually, this first "published" issue covering the years '82-7. After a brief review of the earlier history of the library, the number of vols. at the end of Jan. 1885, when the books were counted, is put at 432,477, including 26,318, besides about 4,000 vols. waiting to be bound. The accessions in the years '83-87, before which accurate count was not kept, averaged 43,947. The copyright accessions alone averaged 29,069. The new purchases for the years '85-87 averaged 5,716. Since 1883 £400 a year has been allotted to the purchase of MSS. The MSS. purchased during the six years numbered 978. The chief MSS. and printed books acquired are enumerated. The staff has been increased, and boys are now largely employed with excellent results. A great deal has been done for the better cataloguing of the MSS. As to the printed books, many of which were formerly obliged to be neglected, it is stated that from 1883 everything that came into the library, either in the form of dissertations or of copyright publications, *has been catalogued*, and great progress has been made with arrears. Moreover, an astonishing amount of indexing and cataloguing work appears to have been done with the view of facilitating access to the stores of miscellaneous and collectaneous literature. A subject-catalogue of duplicate slips was begun in 1878, and in 1882 (when Mr. Nicholson was appointed) 336,816 had been sorted into 13 sections, and about a third of them more minutely classified. Since that time the work has been carried on, until at the end of 1887 the greater part of the work was so far advanced that "a reader asking to see the slips relating to a given subject . . . . would have them placed in his hands in a few minutes." It is supposed that the subject-catalogue thus being formed will be, except that of the Royal Library at Berlin, the largest in the world. This brings us to the difficult subject upon which there has been already some controversy and inkshed. The question is whether it is desirable that the Bodleian should undertake a class-calalogue corresponding, we presume, with the shelf-classification. Even the warmest objectors will admit the magnificence of the idea and admire the sleepless energy of the librarian, who is only anxious to be allowed to carry it into realization *hic et nunc*. It is not for one who is not a member of Congregation or Convocation to express too dogmatical an opinion on a matter, which it is for his betters to decide. But he may at least devoutly hope that they may be led to a right conclusion and may form their judgment, whatsoever it be, with a due sense of what is due to coming generations of students and enquirers, and with a due regard to what the world is entitled to expect of a great university and a library which enjoys unusual privileges. We have not space to follow Mr. Nicholson in the enumeration of the numerous changes and improvements which have marked his term of office. That the increased facilities for readers and improved arrangements for their accommodation have considerably increased the number of readers was only natural, and so we are told that: "the maximum number of readers present at any one moment was probably 70 per cent. higher in 1887 than in 1882." Of one thing Bodley's librarian may be certain, that in his untiring efforts to raise the standard of library achievement, he has the heartiest sympathy of every member of the Library Association, who is capable of appreciating them.

Library Catalogues and Reports.

Belfast Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending Department. Compiled by G. H. Elliott, Librarian. Belfast, 1888. Sq. 8vo, pp. xi. 363, cl. bk. Price 6d.

A clearly printed double column dictionary catalogue of 7,800 vols. Contents of collectaneous works are liberally set and convenient lists of authors given under main subject headings. The work has been done exceedingly well.

Bolton. The 35th Annual Report of the Bolton Public Free Library Committee. 1887-8. 8vo, pp. 19.

The libraries comprise 61,054 vols., of which number 30,519 are in the reference library, and 30,535 in the three lending libraries. From and in the free libraries there were issued 238,333 vols., and 59,936 from the subscription library. Of the 87,442 reference library issues 53,653 vols. were magazines and general literature, and 17,091 novels. From the subscription library there were 961 works, or 1,457 vols., transferred to the free libraries.

Bristol Public Free Libraries. Catalogue of the St. Philip's Branch Library . . . 1888. Demy 8vo, pp. xii, 1-241. Price 6d.

Mr. Taylor has divided this catalogue, to which the Rules are prefixed, into four sections. These are "General Literature," "Fiction," "Juvenile Fiction," and the "Reading and Reference Department." The catalogue is on the dictionary plan, and is carefully compiled and printed. There is, however, a great waste of space in printing. A number of volumes are made up of magazine articles, the titles of which are set out in brevier.

West Bromwich Free Libraries. Catalogue of the Lending Library. Fourth Edition. Compiled by D. Dickinson, Librarian. Oldbury, 1888. La. 8vo, pp. viii. 169. Price 9d.

Another well compiled catalogue on the dictionary plan. Contents are not set out so fully as by Mr. Elliott, and the indexing is not so complete. We notice an odd misprint by which "Dama Sophocles" is separated three or four pages from the rest of the Drama. But it is a good catalogue, and misprints will happen, though fortunately it is not everyone who can afford to make them his stock-in-trade.

Borough of Cheltenham. Fourth Annual Report of the Public Library Committee. 1887-8. Cheltenham, 1888. 8vo, pp. 16.

During the year ending 12th October, the issues in the lending library were 124,432 vols., an increase of 13,249, and in the reference library 8,026, an increase of 3,060. The accessions during the year were 1,350 vols., and the total stock is 14,041 vols., besides 317 pamphlets. The new building for the Library and Science and Art Schools is approaching completion, and the subscription for it amounts to £1,152 10s. 6d. There is no financial information.

Dundee Free Library. Report by the Free Library Committee to the Town Council in November, 1888. 8vo, pp. 26.

The year has been one of great prosperity, thanks mainly to the generosity of Mr. Keiller, who removed the incubus of debt. The Jubilee subscriptions for the new Museum and Art Gallery were £7,600 and the bazaar realized £4,700, besides a balance of unsold articles. The issues from the lending library were 220,306, an increase of 9,946, and from the reference library 73,209 vols., an increase of 582. The vols. added during the year amounted to 702, of which 246 came from the subscription library, in connexion with the Institute. The income was £2,747, and the year closed with a balance in hand of £230 16s. 10½d.

Borough of Leamington Spa Free Public Library. Annual Report, 1887-8, presented . . . . November, 1888. 4to, pp. 8.

The library has added 484 vols. during the year, and the total stock is now 13,325 vols. The issues from the lending library were 52,144, being an increase of 3,703, and in the reference library 5,780, an increase of 894. The committee complain of defective accommodation. The income from the rate was £546 1s. 3d.

Leicester. The 17th Annual Report of the Free Libraries Committee. . . . [With the Rules, &c.]. 1888. 8vo, pp. 35.

"The decrease in the issues during the previous year continued—though not in nearly so great a proportion—during the past year: the total issues being 183,164 as against 191,766; and 212,597 in 1885. The improvement in the central reference department has been continuous and decided." In the central lending library, the decrease was 7,011 on the previous year's issues, against 18,770 on the preceding year's issues. The lending library comprises 16,180 vols., 1,914 adult members were enrolled against 1,783 in 1886-7; and 826 juvenile borrowers were registered against 619 during the preceding year. The reference library issues were 30,357 vols. against 26,660 the year before. There are 890 books, &c. in the Leicestershire collection. A site for a branch has been given by the Rev. Joseph Harris. Donations amounting to £1540. were given to the building fund—as contributions to the local Jubilee Memorial. The building is in course of erection. The committee have had compiled and printed an index to Thompson's History of Leicester. The year's expenditure at the central library was £1,213. There is a balance of £757 in hand. The branch cost £345 during the year.

Manchester. The 38th Annual Report . . . on the working of the Public Free Libraries, 1887-8. 8vo, pp. 38.

The work of the committee is now carried on in ten buildings, the last established (Hyde Road) having been opened May 7th, 1888. The aggregate number of readers at the libraries and reading-rooms was nearly 4,500,000—about 500,000 more than in the previous year. The issues from the lending libraries, and for use in the reading rooms, were 1,606,874, against 1,462,028 in 1886-7—the daily average being 4,464. On Sundays the average issues at the reference library were 246, against 261 during the previous year. The average number of Sunday visits were 5,400. There are now 191,967 vols. in the libraries, of which number 86,654 are in the reference library, 102,696 in the lending libraries, and 2,617 in the reading rooms. During the year 5,948 vols. were added. There are 42,695 borrowers. The Mayor's library has been incorporated with the free library. Six popular lectures were delivered at branches.

Borough of St. Helens. The 11th Annual Report of the Free Public Library, 1887-88. 8vo, pp. 19.

The stock is now 15,783 vols. The issues for the year were at the central lending library 94,526, an increase of 4,159; in the reference library 4,494, an increase of 431. The visits to the reading-rooms were 248,608, an increase of 9,140; the East Sutton branch library issues 15,155. The income from the rate was £595 6s.

South Shields. Report of the Public Library and Museum Committee, 1887-88. 8vo, pp. 4.

The reference and lending libraries consist of 16,780 vols., of which number 11,341, are in the lending library. The total issues were 96,443 vols.—in the reference library 10,574 vols. and 85,869 from the lending library—a daily average of 326. Of the issues in the lending library 56·70 per cent. were of prose fiction. The news room is increasingly popular. The Tyne Dock reading-room continues to be appreciated. The library rate realized £850.

Watford Public Library and College of Science, Art, Music and Literature. Handbook and Reports, 1888-9. 8vo, pp. 60, I-VI.

"The Handbook falls into three parts, the first of which deals with the book department. In the course of fourteen years 9,000 vols. have been obtained," the other parts being devoted to other departments. At the end is a catalogue of twelve months' accessions. The reading room was largely used. The library was opened free of charge on Oct. 10, 1887. On July 31st last, there were 1,430 borrowers. The total issues were 41,920 vols.—an increase of 30,567 vols. over the issues of the previous year, and these principally of an educational character. One-fifth of the issues were to juveniles. There are 6,770 vols. in the lending library, and 2,380 in the reference library.

We have received the Thirty-eighth Annual Report (1887-88) of the Bank of England Library. It gives an interesting account of a year's work of a most interesting institution, and shows how much may be done with small means by well organized co-operation. The income of the library is only £430, but on this a circulation of 42,625 volumes has been reached—an average of more than 84 volumes per member.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

The Philobiblon of Richard de Bury, Bishop of Durham, Treasurer and Chancellor of Edward III. Edited and translated by Ernest C. Thomas, Barrister-at-Law. . . . . London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1888. 8vo, pp. lxxxvi., 259. Price 10s. 6d.

The editor may venture to record here the appearance of this book, which may be said to have been prepared, in a sense, under the auspices of the Library Association, and with the cordial sympathy and assistance of many of its members. He would also take the opportunity of correcting a statement made in the last number (at p. 156), that the number of Large Paper copies was 100. Owing to a misunderstanding, which need hardly be explained here, the order given to the printers was for 50 copies, and only that number was printed, all of which were subscribed before publication.

Indice e Cataloghi IX. Indice del Mare Magnum di Francesco Marucelli publicato a cura del Prof. Dott. Guido Biagi. Roma, 1888. 8vo, pp. lvi., 339. Price L5.

The name of Francesco Marucelli is not so well known as it should be, outside Italy. Marucelli, born at Florence in 1625, of a noble and wealthy family, entered the Church, but rejected the allurements of ecclesiastical ambition in favour of the pursuit of knowledge. He was a patron of art and letters and formed a magnificent library, which he opened freely to less fortunate students. He died in 1713, after a long and well spent life, and by his will established a public library in his birthplace, which bears the inscription:

MARVCELLORVM BIBLIOTHECA PVBLICAE MAXIME PAVPERVM VTILITATI.

His modesty led him to destroy several unpublished works, but he had projected the idea of a universal index of learning, and left an immense series of manuscript folios indexing all matters treated of in the books he had seen. A first volume devoted to history was printed at Rome in 1751; and though Dr. Biagi, now librarian of the Marucelliana, regards the publication of the entire work as "un pio desiderio," he contents himself with printing the index to the *Mare Magnum*, as a pious tribute to the founder's memory. He prefixes a portrait of Marucelli and a *facsimile* of the title-page of the volume of 1751.

Les Zigzags d'un curieux: causeries sur l'art des livres et la littérature d'art par Octave Uzanne. Paris: Maison Quantin, 1888. 8vo, pp. iii, 307. Price 5 fr.

There is a grace of style and play of fancy in the best French writers upon bibliography, or rather *bibliophilie*, to which few, if any, of our professed bibliographical writers can lay claim. M. Uzanne has written a perfect library of books, and seems to be still far from having exhausted himself or his subject. The present work is beautifully printed and got up, and, though printed in a limited number, will not be re-issued.

The October number of the *Harvard University Bulletin*, besides the usual list of accessions, continues the Catalogues of the Dante Collections of the Harvard College and Boston Public Libraries, and the Calendar of the Sparks MSS.

Mr. P. L. Ford contributes to the *Library Journal* for September-October a paper on "Private Libraries of Brooklyn."

We note that the *Library Journal* treats "E: Clodd" as one of the pseudonyms of the late R. A. Proctor. We all lament the death of Mr. Proctor, but are glad to think that Mr. Clodd is still with us to smile at his premature apotheosis.

The number of the *Rivista delle Biblioteche* for Aug.-Sept.-Oct. includes articles on "Printing Privileges and Literary Property in Venice," by Prof. Castellani, and on "Francesco Marucelli," by Prof. Biagi.

The December number of the *Centralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* contains a memorandum on the proposed general catalogue of German University Programmes.

To his useful "Printers' Handbook of Trade Recipes, &c." Mr. C. T. Jacobi, of the Chiswick Press, has now added "The Printers' Vocabulary," a list with brief explanations of over 2,500 technical terms and abbreviations. The book will be interesting as well as useful to bibliographers, but we should have liked to see a little historical illustration.

We have received the handsomely got up first volume of *The Torch and Colonial Book Circular*, 1887-8, large 8vo, pp. 172 [40], upon which its editor and publisher, Mr. E. A. Petherick, has obviously bestowed much pains. The lists of colonial publications and of literature relating to the colonies lend it a peculiar value. The features of the second volume, which began with the issue for September, include the "Bibliography of Australasia" (continued), a list of English and Amerian magazines, and a select list of more recent English and American bibliographical publications, which seems likely to be useful, though it includes a few books which were better charitably forgotten.

Mr. Quaritch has issued a "Catalogue of fifteen hundred books remarkable for the beauty or the age of their bindings, or as bearing indications of former ownership by great book collectors and famous historical personages." It contains a prefatory sketch of the history of bookbinding, and is supplied with a number of useful indexes. It extends to 200 pages, with over 60 columns of index matter, and is published in imperial 8vo, large paper, at 10s. 6d.

The first part has been issued of Mr. Quaritch's facsimiles of choice examples of "Historical and Artistic Bookbinding and Book Illumination in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries," reproduced by Mr. Griggs, in colours and gold. The work is in imperial 8vo, and will consist of ten parts, each containing ten plates, and published at 21s. for each part. The plates are beautifully executed.

In considering the history of proposals for the provision of public libraries, we ought never to forget Bishop Bale's suggestion, that there should be in each English shire "one solēpne library to the preservacyon of noble workes and preferrement of good lernynges in oure posteryte." It should be remembered also, that the proposals to which Mr. William Blades and Professor Dickson have recently called attention (see *ante*, pp. 95, 116) were nearly coincident in point of time with the labours of Dr. Thomas Bray, who founded or enlarged in his lifetime no less than 61 parochial libraries in England and Wales, and procured the passing of the well-known Act of Parliament for their "better preservation" in 1709 (7 Anne, cap. 14).

Moreover, that about the same time similar ideas were stirring in men's minds elsewhere in Europe, we have a curious piece of evidence to show, in a quaint little German book, published in 1713, which we met with in our researches into the literary history of the *Philobiblon*. The title savours of last century unwieldiness: *Philobiblion sacrum*, Das ist gründliche Untersuchung / was für Nutzen der Kirchen Gottes stiffte einer von Adel auf dem Lande wenn er auf seinem Gute oder auch in den Kirchen zum allgemeinen Gebrauch derer Prediger auch seiner Justitz-Bedienten eine Bibliothek anlege / Nebst angehengten Consilio, woher eine solche Bibliothek anzuschaffen; wie selbige einzurichten / und was dabey zu beobachten. Zu Befo[r]derung der Ehre Gottes und Aufnahmen seiner Kirchen aufgesetzet von M. J. C. Goclenio, P.N. Leipzig und Stendal ... MDCCXIII. 8vo, pp. [xvi,] 216. That his title is derived from the work of De Bury, is clear from his reference to him on S. 74, where he says: "Wie nöhtig nun aber dass wir à propos kommen dieses einem Prediger und was derselbige vor Nutzen aus Büchern haben kan lese man nur bey den Richard de Buri in seinen (*sic*) Philobl. c. IV. in gar emphatischen Redens-Arthen vorgestellet."

Messrs. Sampson Low & Co. have published, in monotint plates, sixty "Bindings remarkable for their beauty in the British Museum," with descriptions by Mr. H. B. Wheatley, in large quarto, and only two hundred copies are printed for subscribers in England in various styles, beginning at £3 3s.

Mr. R. B. Marston has edited what he calls the "one hundredth" edition of Walton and Cotton's "Compleat Angler," illustrated by photogravures, and accompanied by a reprint of Westwood and Satchell's bibliographical account of the various editions and imitations of the work. It is issued to subscribers at £5 5s. and £10 10s.

In a recent issue of the *Saturday Review* appeared an amusing notice of *The Bookworm* (Elliot Stock, 1888): "As regards the publication before us," says the reviewer, "there is nothing on its title-page or cover to show whether it is a journal, whether it is the first volume or the fiftieth, whether it is to go on, or whether it is to appear in the catalogues with the melancholy words 'all published'... Nor can it be easily gathered from the make-up of the volume whether the papers are those of a serial bound, or whether they were written especially for this volume." To this last question our own pages and those of the *Athenæum* have already shown that a good many of them were *not*. But to issue a "bibliographical" periodical in this fashion is surely to make of bibliography a mere laughing stock!

In connexion with the Centenary Celebration of the establishment of the Belfast Library and Society for promoting Library Knowledge, commonly known as the Linen Hall, held this year, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. John Anderson, has prepared a history of the Library and Society, taken chiefly from the minutes. It forms a well-printed quarto of about 128 pages, and is illustrated with portraits, plans and maps. The Society numbers 836 members, and possesses over 25,000 volumes, the collection being especially rich in science and the fine arts, and in Irish and Belfast printed books.

The "Catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts of the Library of the Cathedral Church of Lichfield" (London: Sotheran; Lichfield: Lomax, 1888, 8vo, pp. viii, 120) is printed in a very unpretending style. This old library perished in the Civil War, and the present collection, consisting of about 4,500 vols., is largely due to the Duchess of Somerset, Andrew Newton and the Rev. F. Martin. Its chief MS. treasure is, of course, the famous S. Chad's Gospels.

The *Book Lover*, a new American monthly journal, though nicely printed and illustrated, expressly disclaims being "a literary journal," and aims at encouraging the American craze for "extra illustrating."

The Grolier Club has formally announced its edition of the *Philobiblon*, edited by Prof. West, and printed of course by De Vinne. The announcement goes on to give a short and not very accurate account of De Bury, for which we cannot suppose Prof. West to be responsible, any more than we think he can have sanctioned the claim, here made, that he has "*discovered* a number of early MSS. of the *Philobiblon*," or for the somewhat arrogant and, at all events, premature claim that "this edition will probably hereafter be considered as *the only true and genuine edition*." The issue will be limited to members, and the two volumes of text and translation will cost from $20 to $25. A third volume will contain an introduction and notes.

"The Bibliographic Office," opened in Berlin (Alexanderplatz, 1) on the 1st November, has issued a funny little English prospectus, offering its services to bibliographical enquirers all over the world, and announcing that it has "its representatives and correspondents for all doctrines at the archives of all library and university towns." We are also informed that "the department for bibliographic works, Constitutes (*sic*) the principal branch of the Institute, since, for the most part, the information offered is based on practice gained by routine." After this, we are quite prepared to be told that "translations of scientific and belle-lettristical works are carried out by technical men of the first order, and with the help of excellent Indexes of technical expressions!"

In the Nov.-Dec. number of the *Rivista delle Biblioteche*—Signor Fumagalli gives an interesting little bibliography of views and illustrations of Italian libraries, and admits some justice in the judgment of Addison: *Books are indeed the least part of the furniture that one ordinarily goes to see in an Italian library.* We wish that some industrious librarian would compile a similar list for English libraries.

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